No 62,013 THE TIMES SATURDAY DECEMBER 15 1984 20p

THE TIMES

Portfolio

£24,000 to be won

There is £24,000 to be won in The Times Portfolio competition today – the weekly prize of £20,000 together with today's daily prize of £2,000 and a further £2,000 because there were no winners in yesterday's competition. Portfolio list, page 24; price changes, back page information service.

US threat of farm trade war

The United States plans an "agressive" campaign to win world agricultural markets by producing more and driving down prices. Mr John Block, the US Agriculture Secretary, said yesterday. His statement, after US–EEC talks in Brussels on trade differences, sounded ominously like the declaration of an agricultural trade war.

Shares peak

Share prices soared on the stock market, with both main indices at record highs. Sterling was weak, gaining only 20 points to $1.1920 Comment, page 19 Market report, page 21

Famine aid tax

The Prime Minister last night rejected pleas not to charge value-added tax on sales of the pop record made to raise money for Ethiopian famine victims MPs' opposition, page 3

Scan 'safe'

The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists has dismissed fears that ultrasound scanning could damage babies in the womb Page 3

Novelist jailed

The crime novelist Helen Hough was jailed for nine months for helping Miss Annetta Harding, aged 84, to commit suicide. Page 3

Patience forever

There is a need for patient, sustained dialogue with Moscow from here to eternity, Sir Geoffrey Howe said in Brussels. Nato's foreign minsiters agreed to expand East-West contacts Page 4

Ford peace hope

A peace formula will be put on Monday to representatives of 270 women sewing machinists whose month-old strike has stopped all production at Ford car plants.

Vietnam trial

The trial began in Ho Chi Minh City of 21 men accused of plotting to overthrow the Communist regime in Vietnam Page 5

Sheriff's catch

After stalking them for five months, Sheriff Johnny France caught the two mountain men of Beartrap Canyon, Montana, wanted for kidnap and murder Page 4

Botha accuses

President Botha of South Africa accused both the US and the Soviet Union of meddling in Africa, reflecting Pretoria's increasingly strained ties with the West Page 5

Heart man fights

Artificial heart recipient Mr William Schroeder is fighting back after his stroke but is now unable to speak. Page 4

Island sold

Mr Anthony Duckworth, a Cayman Island resident has bought the 50-acre private Channel Island of Jethou, three miles from Guernsey for an undisclosed price.

Costly credit

The big stores offer the convenience of credit cards, but the interest costs can be far higher than those of Access and Barclaycard. Family Money, pages 23, 24

Euro Cup draw

Tottenham Hotspur will meet Real Madrid in the UEFA Cup quarter-finals. The three other English clubs still in Europe have avoided their strongest opponents Page 26

Walker tells TUC to make miners drop rigid demands

● The Government told the TUC the pit strike could not be settled until mineworkers' leaders dropped opposition to closure of loss-making pits.

● Mr Arthur Scargill, NUM president, was fined £250 with £750 costs at Rotherham on two charges of obstructing police on the picket line.

● Working miners taking High Court action to make every NUM executibe member responsible for a £200,000 contempt fine have excluded four moderate union leaders Page 2

● Two working miners failed in their High Court attempt to get two Derbyshire NUM officials to repay £1.7m spent on the pit strike Page 2

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The Government placed the onus for a new peace initiative in the 40-week miners strike yesterday firmly on the TUC's shoulders insisting there could be no settlement until mineworkers' leaders dropped opposition to closure of loss-making pits.

Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, told the seven senior TUC leaders monitoring the strike that there would be no point in the National Coal Board holding fresh negotiations with Mr Athur Scargill while the miners' president continued his impossible demand that mines should close only when reserves had been exhausted.

TUC leaders will discuss the next move with leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers next week before reporting to the TUC's finance and general purposes committee and then the full general council, where there are likely to be renewed demands that miners' modify their hardline.

TUC officials stressed that there was no intention to bring pressure on the NUM because Mr Walker and the Government had laid down as a precondition of any further talks that Mr Scargill should be more flexible.

Despite that assurance, it was suggested by senior sources that a change of tack by the miners would be necessary before negotiations could start.

There was no comment last night on the talks from the coal board or union, although the "framework" for a peace deal which the union leaders suggested had been presented with the NUM's acquiesence.

Mr Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, put forward the three-point plan, which involved the coal board "not proceeding with" its March 6 proposals for a four million tonne reduction in capacity with the loss of up to 20,000 jobs, a guarantee that the five named pits said to be most at risk would remain open and a commitment to have urgent discussions on revisions to the expansionary 1974 *Plan For Coal*.

Those discussions, on which there would be a deadline for reaching an agreement, would consider the question of uneconomic pits. Mr Willis said there would be a return to work if the first two points were agreed, to allow the talks on the industry's future.

The TUC's aim, during what were described as 90 minutes of "calm, eventempered and reasoned discussions", was to change the agenda set by Government to draw the question of uneconomic capacity into wider considerations of the industry's future and Britain's energy requirements.

But Mr Walker, who was accompanied by Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Employment, was adamant there could be no talks until Mr Scargill's attitude changed. "What we have in this case is a man who has gone into negotiations and has never moved and after every negotiation he boasts that he has not moved and will not move in the future," Mr Walker said.

Mr Willis described the first meeting between union leaders and the Energy Secretary since the strike started as disappointing.

The TUC team argued that while the Government accused the NUM of intransigence, the miners had made concessions while the coal board remained insistent on its original demand that it should be able to close collieries where coal could not be mined economically.

The union arguement is that the miners have dropped their demand that the March closure programme should be withdrawn and had asked instead that it should be "not proceeded with". Secondly, there was an agreement to hold talks on the "broad strategy" of the *Plan For Coal*.

But Mr Walker told them that the miners had been made a marvellous offer, which included a good pay rise and security of employment.



Royal tartan: Princess Anne preparing to leave Heathrow yesterday for a short private visit to Balmoral. (Photograph: Julian Herbert).

Miners leader not to appeal

Scargill fined for obstruction

By Peter Davenport

Mr Arthur Scargill, the mineworkers' president, was found guilty yesterday of two charges of obstruction during mass picketing of the Orgreave coking plant in the early months of the miners' dispute.

He was fined a total of £250 and ordered to pay prosecution costs up to a maximum of £750.

Mr William Probert, a stipendiary magistrate, sitting at Rotherham, South Yorkshire, told Mr Scargill: "I take the view that your actions on that morning demonstrated a poor example to those you seek to lead. "I have taken into account everything said on your behalf and the difficulties your actions gave to those officers engaged in the preservation of law and order at Orgreave."

Mr Scargill displayed no motion as the verdicts were given but outside the court, surrounded by a crowd of shoppers and supporters, he appeared unchastened.

Mr Scargill said last night he was not going to appeal against his conviction yesterday.

He added: "I am not going to appeal against this sentence or this judgement because in this political climate I have no faith in getting a fair trial and certainly no faith in getting a fair judgement from the courts."

Mr Scargill was asked if the court's decision would stop him joining further picket lines. He replied: "Why should it? I have not been charged with any offence in connection with picketing because it is not an offence."



Mr Scargill talking to reporters yesterday

Mr Scargill had pleaded not guilty to obstructing the highway outside the Orgreave plant on May 30 and not guilty to obstructing Chief Supt John Nesbitt in the execution of his duty on the same day.

The court had seen repeated showings of a brief BBC news video film which shows Mr Scargill's arrest.

The prosecution said that police had warned Mr Scargill and his supporters to keep moving. When approached a second time he refused to move on the court was told.

Mr Scargill denied that the first conversation had taken place and alleged that there had been a deliberate plot to arrest him.

Mr Scargill was fined £50 for obstructing the highway and £200 for obstructing Chief Supt Nesbitt.

Mr Michael Mansfield, Mr Scargill's counsel, told the court that Mr Scargill had not been receiving salary during the dispute and he was not in a position to pay heavy fines or costs.

80mph limit sought on M-ways

By Richard Evans
Lobby Reporter

The speed limit on Britain's motorways should be increased to 80 mph for a trial period in a bid to improve road safety, according to a Commons report due out in the new year.

Although the proposal by MP's on the all-party transport select committee was agreed before this week's horrific crash on the M25 in which 10 people died, it is unlikely to cause bitter controversy.

Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for Tranport, has repeatedly ruled out raising the existing 70 mph limit for the nation's 16 million drivers, but motoring organizations and many chief constables support the idea.

The AA said last night: "We would not be opposed to any raising of the motorway speed limit to 80 mph. For some time cars have been travelling at that speed and laws should reflect real life."

Although there was some opposition initially within the 11-man select committee to the idea of an increased speed experiment following their 18-month investigation into road safety, the MPs are understood to have been particularly influenved by the evidence given by the Association of Chief Police Officer's traffic committee.

Mr Roger Birch, Chief Constable of Sussex, Mr John Over, Chief Constable of Gwent and Mr Bob O'Hanlon, Deputy Chief Constable of Staffordshire, argued stongly in favour of a drastic reappraisal of all speed limits, and told MPs there was a case for an 80 mph limit on motorways.

MPs were persuaded the existing limit was largely ignored.

QE2 crack strands passengers

By Michael Horsnell

A crack in the hull of the QE2, discovered during a £5.2 million refit of the liner in West Germany, led yesterday to the cancellation of a cruise for more than 1,400 passengers.

Sources at Cunard, owners of the 67,000-ton luxury passenger ship, said the hairline crack had been discovered on the starboard side near the fore when plates were removed for the installation of a fuel economy unit to the boilers.

The damage has been repaired in dry dock at Bremerhaven, the company said last night.

Passengers were left stranded when delays in the riveting necessary to repair the crack together with tide problems forced Cunard to cancel a two-day cruise in the English Channel.

The ship is expected to arrive in Southampton today in time for a 20-day cruise of the Caribbean.

Since the QE2 sailed into Bremerhaven on November 30 the first-class restaurant has been redesigned and refurbished, de luxe cabins redecorated, new television and video system installed, air conditioning improved and other mechanical systems modernised.

Cunard yesterday offered passengers who booked on the Channel cruise (top price £560 per person) a refund plus a £100 credit voucher.

A spokesman for the company said: "The crack was not a major problem and has been repaired. There is nothing for passengers to worry about and nothing out of the ordinary. The ship could have taken a bump as it arrived at the dry dock but we cannot be certain."

Soldier gets life for Ulster murder

From Richard Ford
Belfast

The first British soldier to be convicted of murder while on duty in Northen Ireland was jailed for life yesterday for killing a Roman Catholic during a disturbance in West Belfast.

By jailing Private Ian Thain, aged 19, a soldier with the First Battalion Light Infantry, from Doncaster, South Yorkshire, Mr Justice Higgins will provoke controversy within the security forces and among Unionist politicians.

The politicians will argue that the security forces face enough danger without the additional worry of wondering each time they act if they will later be accused of serious offences.

Several other soldiers have been convicted of murder in the province but these were for criminal acts unconnected with their official duties.

The judge, in a reserved judgment at Belfast Crown Court found Thain guilty of murdering Thomas 'Kidso' Reilly, aged 22, a former road manager with the pop group, Bananarama, on the anniversary of internment last year.

Mr Reilly died when Thain, who had served in the province for only three months, fired a single shot as he ran along a road following a fracas between youths and a military patrol.

At the end of a 90-minute judgement the judge told Thain, who joined the army in September 1982, that Mr Reilly's death had been a tragedy for his family and friends.

It was tragic that Thain had been responsible for the death after a short time in the army, with little experience of soldiering and in a city which was strange to him. As the judge imposed the life sentence, Mr Reilly's father wept in the public gallery but colleagues of the soldier looked stunned.

Outside the court Mr Michael Reilly, a brother of the dead man said: "I was very surprised. We thought he would walk away like they usually do. I may have more faith in the courts now that justice has been seen to be done for the first time."

Last night it was not clear where Thain would serve his sentence and a spokesman for the Northern Ireland office said "The whole business is under active consideration".

The authorities are faced with a significant problem as it would be difficult for Thain to serve a sentence in the Maze Jail amongst both "loyalist" and republican paramilitaries but the prison policy is that people serve their sentences in the countries where the crime is committed.

In his 64-page judgment, the judge described Thain as being "deliberately untruthful" when it suited him and that he had "concocted a defence" alleging that he thought Mr Reilly was pulling a pistol to shoot him. "It confirms my conclusion that

Continued on page 2, col 8

Inflation drops and further fall expected

The rate of inflation dropped to 4.9 per cent in November, from 5 per cent in October.

The December rate should be lower still, as a result of lower mortgage rates. The retail prices index rose by 0.3 per cent between October and November, from 357.7 to 358.8. The average for the final quarter should be close to the Treasury's 4.75 per cent forecast.

The building societies, lost out as funds were withdrawn for the British Telecom issue. Net receipts fell from £1,125 million in October to £363 million in November.

Mortgage lending remains strong, totalling £2,060 million in November.

Details, page 19

New gas leak fears drives 150,000 from Bhopal

Bhopal (Reuter) – Fifty thousand people yesterday fled in panic from Bhopal, where scientists plan to neutralise poison gas stocks in the factory where a gas leak last week took more than 2,000 lives. More than 150,000 have fled in the last three days.

Police said 4,000 vehicles left as people grabbed any form of transport. Queues at the railway station stretched into the street and people piled on top of buses.

Troops and police stood by to control looters as residents spurned refugee camps on the outskirts and sought to get far away from where Union Carbide scientists plan to start turning the gas into pesticides tomorrow.

● WASHINGTON: A dissident shareholder has filed suit against Union Carbide directors, asking the court to hold them personally liable for the disaster because they knew of defective equipment at the Bhapal plant (Bailey Morris writes).

Mr Howard Mendelsohn filed a suit in Chicago accusing company officers of having failed to act on a 1982 inspection which he claims revealed faulty valves and other equipment.

● ISLAMABAD: Sixteen people were killed on Thursday when a natural gas pipeline burst in the town of Garhi Dhodo, 550 miles south-west of Islamabad, during the early morning hours (AP reports).

Letter from Bhopal, back page

Kremlin's heir brings warmer climate to London

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Mr Mikhail Gorbachov's arrival in London today is not only a personal boost for the Kremlin heir apparent but also represents a new warmth in Anglo-Soviet relations. The visit is the first by a senior Politburo member for several years.

Although the Anglo-Soviet talks come less than a month before the crucial meeting of Mr Ndrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister and Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, in Geneva, Sir Iain Sutherland, the British Ambassador in Moscow, says that the Russians are not using Britain as a "postbox" for Washington. Sir Ian was speaking in an interview with *The Times* on the eve of Mr Gorbachov's week-long visit.

Sir Iain, who has been Ambassador in Moscow since October, 1982, and will be advising Sir Geoffrey Howe the Foreign Secretary, during the Gorbachov visit, said there was "no sensible substitute for direct dialogue between the superpowers." America and Russia had not yet reached the stage where they were unable to talk to each other.

Asked whether London could none the less serve as a channel to Washington, Sir Iain said the Russians "are not given to using us or other third parties as a postbox for Washington, in good times or bad, nor would Britain seek such a role."



Sir Iain: 'Estrangement went too far'

But he added that when Russian leaders spoke to British ministers, "Neither we nor they exclude any of the major issues as the prerogative of the superpowers."

Sir Iain took over at the ornate British Embassy mansion opposite the Kremlin on the Moscow river at a time when East-West relations were frosty. He had served twice in Moscow before, beginning as a junior secretary shortly before the death of Stalin.

He said that Mr Gromyko in 1932 had described Anglo-Soviet relations as "particularly subject to squalls". Differences had been exacerbated in the past by the Soviet perception of relations with the West as an ideological struggle, Sir Iain said, as well as by Soviet attitudes to human rights, the use of force in Afghanistan and "the threat of force as an instrument of policy."

If political relations have improved it is not the result of ay convergence in policies, it stems from a mutual recognition of the need to have a clear understadning of the interests of the other party, to identify and if possible enlarge the the areas of agreement, and to keep to a minimum the risks of confrontation." British wanted "a better, more constructive relationship".

Continued on back page, col 6

Schools get £30m grant for special project

By Lucy Hodges
Education Correspondent

All except one of the 96 local education authorities in England are to benefit from a special grant scheme worth £30 million. The one authority to get no money is Labour-controlled Hounslow, which put in no bid under the Education Support Grants programme.

The programme enables Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education, to direct small sums into what he belives are needy areas of education. Otherwise he can only ask local authorities to spend money.

The money has been deducted from the rate support grant. A total of 560 out of 806 bids were accepted.

The 11 areas to be funded include: maths teaching; science in primary schools; pilot projects for records of achievement; pilot projects to improve education in big cities; pilot projects to improve what is taught in rural primary schools; microcomputers for children with special needs; pilot projects to meet the needs of ethnic minorities; and the development of information technology at further education establishments.

The Inner London Education Authority is to receive £1.9 million.

Mrs Nicky Harrison, chairman of the education committee of the Labour-controlled Association of Metropolitan Authorities, complained that central government was imposing its priorities on local education.

Double value of Kedleston Hall may threaten preservation

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Kedleston Hall, Robert Adam's Derbyshire masterpiece, effectively doubled in price yesterday.

The Trustees of the Kedleston Estate made an application to the courts for guidance on their legal liabilities towards the beneficiaries of the estate of the second Lord Scarsdale, two of whom are minors.

They are looking for the guidance of the courts as to whether the house can be taken over by the nation at a bargain price and if this involves the family in being held liable in later years when the two children reach their majority.

This problem has been brought about by negotiations with the Government over tax liabilities arising from the death of the second Lord Scarsdale in 1977. When the present Lord Scarsdale offered the house, its parkland and important contents to the nation in November 1983, their value was understood to be around £6 million.

Yesterday, Lord Scarsdale's lawyers revealed that the last year's booming art market has pushed the valuation up to around £12 million. The Government has not yet made an offer.

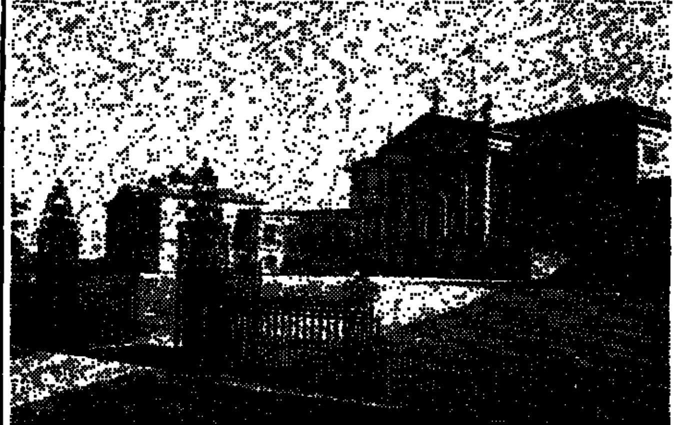
The new valuation presents the National Heritage Memorial Fund with a problem as it has been keeping aside assets for years for the purchase of Kedleston Hall. The total bill now looks as if it may reach £15 million.

The tax liabilities on the estate amount to around £2 million.

Thus, if the nation agreed to a £12 million valuation, the cancellation of the tax liability would only reduce the bill to £10 million.

It has always been envisaged that the running of Kedleston Hall would be handed over to the National Trust, but this body is not prepared to take it without an endowment. Mr Angus Stirling, director general of the National Trust, said yesterday that an endowment similar to the £4 million for Belton was going to be needed.

Adding, say, a £5 million endowment to a £10 million purchase price, this leaves around £15 million that must be found by the nation.



Appreciating asset: Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire, whose value has risen to about £12 million.

Moderate NUM men exempted in court action

By Staff Reporters

The names of four moderates have been dropped from a High Court action by working pitmen to make each member of the executive of the National Union of Mineworkers personally responsible for a £200,000 contempt of court fine.

Evidence from the NUM itself on splits in the leadership meant that not all the 24-strong executive will be held responsible for decision to defy the law.

Those exempted are Mr Trevor Bell, general secretary of COSA, the NUM's white-collar section; Mr Ken Toon, president of the South Derbyshire area; Mr Jack Jones, secretary of the Leicestershire area and Mr Ted McKay, secretary of the North Wales pitmen.

But Mr Colin Clarke, president of the National Working Miners' Committee, will press ahead with legal moves against the rest of the national executive next Wednesday when the hearing resumes.

Later at the High Court in the Strand, London, Mr Justice Vinelott refused to force two Derbyshire pit union officials to repay £1.7 million in union funds spent on the strike.

The judge said he was declining to make the order sought by working miners "in the hope that members will be able to work together in the future for their common benefit within the rules of the union."

Supporters of the NUM hope Mr Justice Vinelott's assessment will influence the adjudication of Mr Justice Scott, who adjourned the case against the national executive.

Mr Justice Vinelott said he saw no immediate advantage in ordering Mr Gordon Butler, Derbyshire secretary, and Mr John Burroughs, area secretary, to pay a sum which could lead to steps to bankrupt them.

The action against the officials had been mounted by Mr Roland Taylor, of Shirebrook colliery, and Mr David Roberts, of Markham colliery, both working miners.

The judge said that an injunction against Mr Butler and Mr Burroughs banning them from spending any more of the area's £2 million assests in furtherance of the strike should continue until the full trial of the action.

● The NUM has begun a High Court action to block attempts by its non-striking Nottingham area to change its rules.

The union yesterday gave the Nottingham area union legal notice of its intention to ask a High Court judge to ban any rule changes on the ground that the changes would be a breach of the contract between the national and area unions.

It is also to seek an injunction barring Nottingham from "altering, amending, rescinding or adding to" its rule book.

The Nottingham NUM has 14 days in which to reply to the notice. Failure to do so could result in the NUM being given judgement in default of defence.

The Nottingham area council is due to meet next Thursday to discuss a rule change which would free it of the need to seek the authority of the national union for important decisions affecting its members, including strikes and overtime bans.

Arm in arm: Mrs Glenys Kinnock, wife of the Labour Party leader, shows off toys donated for the children of striking miners. At a press conference yesterday. She said the Christmas appeal fund to buy food and toys for the families of striking miners has exceeded the wildest dreams of its organizers. Two weeks after it opened with a goal of £50,000, it has raised more than £263,000, including a cheque for £100,000 from Mr John Paul Getty II, and contributions are coming in at a rate of £18,000 a day.

But Mrs Kinnock told a press conference at the fund's headquarters in a tiny terrace house in Waterloo, south London: "We still need more money and it is important that the appeal continues".

Sharp drop in number of Ulster killings

By Richard Ford
Belfast

The number of people who have died violently in Northern Ireland this year, is, at the end of the year, likely to be at the lowest level since the troubles erupted in 1971. Statistics produced two weeks before the year ends show that 62 people have died violently.

The security forces in the province are making no complacent fearing that it would encourage terrorists to attempt spectacular outrages. But the figures confirm a trend throughout the year, with deaths and bombings down compared with last year.

However, security sources admit that the terrorists have become more efficient at killing when they compare the rate of death to violent incidents and privately admit there is no end in sight after 15 years of violence.

The pattern of violence is also changing, with less terrorism in Londonderry and particularly Belfast and attacks hitting vulnerable border areas. Terrorism in border counties is increasingly aimed at locally recruited members of the security forces.

They are soft targets, particularly when off duty, and most vulnerable if they live on isolated farms. Although the figures indicate declining violence one security source said: "We are not crowing over it. We still have a long long way to go".

The Provisional IRA has been responsible for 38 deaths in the province this year but the problems facing the organisation are indicated by their operations in Belfast. They have only succeeded in killing four people there this year; one of those was a Roman Catholic "executed" for alleged criminal activities.

Of the four people killed so far in 1984 by the Irish National Liberation Army all died in Belfast but included two of their own members. Informers have provided the security forces with a major breakthrough.

In the North Belfast Ardoyne area violent activity dropped dramatically after conviction of leading IRA terrorists on the word of informer Christopher Black.

The INLA appears to have been particularly hard hit by informers and have so far this year been unable to kill outside Belfast.

The Provisionals have had a number of weapons supply setbacks, particularly with the capture of arms aboard the Marita Anne trawler

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
Killings	76	101	97	77	62
Explosions	280	398	219	266	185
Injuries	380	1442	607	546	832

Express fails in injunction claim

Four provincial newspaper groups successfully opposed an application by Express Newspapers in the High Court in London yesterday, seeking to stop them publishing daily letter sequences from *The Daily Express* "Millionaire of the Month" game.

Rate capping

Leicester most suitable case

From Craig Seton
Leicester

Leicester City Council was selected as the most suitable case for rate capping of the 18 authorities named on Tuesday. The Government ordered its rates be cut by 57 per cent next year, the most of any authority.

The Labour-controlled council does not have the expensive responsibility of social services and education, covered by the county, but was singled out as a notorious high spender.

The Government has indicated it for failure to use about £6 million in reserves to hold down rates; for rate and spending increases of 67 per cent and 46 per cent respectively, since 1981, and for overspending on services, notably, concessionary bus fares, recreation and parks.

Only about one-fifth, £53, of the rates paid by Leicester ratepayers, goes to the city, the rest to the county. This year's rate of 37.5p raised £15 million, but the Government wants that cut to 16.2, saving the average ratepayer about 60p a week.

However, the loss to city hall is £8 million a year. The Government has worked on the assumption that the council has a lower budget than the £29 million it projects, and says that after rate revenue and rate support, the remainder should be found from balances.

The council insists that without using the balances, which it assesses at £5.5 million its overall rate shortfall will be £11 million.

The Labour group meets on Monday to discuss whether to fall in line and make "devastating" cuts of 40 per cent in services and manpower or pass an illegal budget in March.

If cuts are to be made, the areas identified by the Government are likely to be at risk. The Government says Leicester's spending on all services is more per head (£81) compared with under £45 for the shire districts.

This year it has budgeted to spend £6.15 per head on concessionary bus fares for pensioners, the young, and the disabled at a cost of £1.7m. The shire average is £1.84.

Mr Peter Soulsby, the Labour leader, is adamant that there is no fat to be cut in Leicester. "We have been elected with increasing majorities to provide and improve services, not to cut them.

Mr Terry Harris, the Tory leader, said that Leicester city was nothing more than an overblown district council.

Spending per head		Cost on rates
Parks	£12.62	£3.5
Sports	£4.31	£1.2
Baths	£6.14	£1.7
Community Services	£7.56	£2.13
Arts	£2.93	£0.82
Entertainment	£1.00	£0.28
Ethnic minority projects	£1.13	£0.31
Concessionary fares	£6.20	£1.75
Housing	£15.50	£4.5

Edinburgh ready to defy warning of bankruptcy

From Ronald Faux, Edinburgh

Edinburgh district councillors, preparing for a clash with the Government over local authority spending, have been warned by their chief officials of the consequences of levying an "illegal rate". The ruling Labour group has voted to spend £76 million in 1985-86, £21 million over the Government's limit.

A report by the council's chief executive and its directors of administration and finance says that the rate poundage would probably be illegal from the date it was fixed. It would quickly become difficult for the council to borrow on such security.

The officials said there was no right of appeal against any surcharge imposed by the Secretary of State for Scotland, Mr George Younger, other than the Quarter Session on the point of law, and that recovery proceedings may lead to bankruptcy and disqualification from office as an elected member.

In spite of these warnings, the Labour group is preparing itself to levy an "illegal" rate. Mr Alex Wood, the Labour group leader, says it is intended to put £21 million into the budget to provide better housing.

"We are doing what we promised to do in our years in opposition."

The Labour-controlled Stirling district council is also preparing to defy the new limits local authorities may contribute from rates towards council housing costs.

The miner's Christmas

Santa has a foreign accent

As miners' families prepare for Christmas *Times* reporter Paul Valley tours the coal fields to discover the festive spirit – if any

To the children of striking miners in Kent, Father Christmas will have a distinctly foreign accent. Posters in Dutch, French, Flemish and German, which festoon the walls of the miners' welfare clubs and strike headquarters throughout this most militant of British mining areas, testify to that.

"Believe it or not, this is going to be one of the best Christmases we have ever had. It is going to be great fun," said Cyril Brazier, the National Union of Mineworkers' official in charge of providing food for strikers and their children at the daily soup kitchen in Snowdown miners' welfare club.

It is not difficult to believe him. He is wearing a Tom and Jerry party hat on his grizzled head.

From the kitchen, where strikers' wives are preparing a chicken casserole for 110 mouths, comes the gentle lilt of a Christmas carol.

Meanwhile, Joan, the pensioner who supervises the catering, is whizzing around the hall on a tiny tricycle, one of hundreds of toys given by local trade unionists so that every striker's child will receive at least one present.

All round gifts lie in piles, but they are dwarfed by stacks of food cartons.

"It's them funny beans again", one miner announced, opening a box to reveal rows of *haricots au beurre*. Gastronomic horizons are widening in Aylesham.

Gifts of food and clothes, second hand and new, have increased this month by 300 per cent Mr Danny Deary, NUM branch treasurer, said.

Tomorrow, the actress Frances de la Tour and the boxer John Conteh will present a free cabaret. On Christmas Day there will be a 13lb turkey, a plum pudding and perhaps a hamper for every family.

"A real closeness and sense of community has built up here. It will make Christmas special this year, even though there are some things we will not be able to have", Mrs Sue Mountford said.

"There will be no inter-family present", Mr Phillip Sutcliffe, Snowdown NUM vice-chairman said, "but I am determined not to let that upset me. Fortunately my three children, who are nine, 13, and 15, are old enough to understand. It is the parents with younger children who may have problems explaining".

But there are plenty of people determined to make good the deficiency.

Next: Leicester coal fields

● A comprehensive Home Office breakdown of criminal offences arising out the ten month old miners' strike disclosed yesterday there have been 15 charges of arson and three involving explosives.

A total of 9,422 charges have been levelled against 7,314 people in England and Wales between March 13 and December 11. Mr Giles Shaw, Minister of State at the Home Office, told MP's.

Of the 3,903 cases which have been to court, 3,040 resulted in convictions.

In another written Commons answer Mr Shaw revealed 1,937 fines have been imposed

About 120 people have received jail sentences and nearly 1,000 have received conditional or absolute discharges, the Home Office added last night.

In Scotland 1,406 people have been arrested in connection with offences arising from the strike.

A breakdown of offences committed in England and Wales and the number of charges is as follows:

Section 5 of the Public Order Act 1936 (conduct conducive to a breach of the peace): number of charges: 3,801: Obstructing a police constable: 1,616: Obstruction of the highway: 619: Criminal damage: 906: Criminal damage with intent to endanger life: 4: Arson: 15.

Assaulting a police constable: 312: Assault occasioning actual bodily harm: 348: Assault occasioning grievous bodily harm: 37: Theft: 197: Resisting arrest: 18: Offensive weapons: 47: Section 7 of the Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act 1875 (intimidation): 270: Burglary: 29: Handling stolen property: 1: Drug offence: 1: Breach of the peace: 168: Breach of bail conditions: 30: Attempt (various offences): 18: Drunkenness: 89: Unlawful assembly: 809: Railway offences: 18: Affray: 21: Riot: 137: Incitement: 1: Reckless driving: 15: Threats/conspiracy to cause damage: 12: Explosives offence: 3: Threats to kill: 3: Unlawful imprisonment: 2: Other offences: 205.

Total 9,422.

● Elections for the seat on the miners' union executive, left vacant after Mr Roy Ottey, a craft section moderate resigned over NUM defiance of the law, are to be held before January 15.

Richard's farewell swipe at Thatcher

By Tim Jones

In a bitter valedictory address, which he said he had been waiting four years to make, Mr Ivor Richard, the outgoing British member of the European Commission, yesterday launched into a series of detailed criticisms against the British Government.

Mr Richard said he was giving up his post "somewhat involuntarily" and it is generally known that his continued presence in the job was considered by the Prime Minister to be too pro-European.

Mr Richard, a former Labour Party candidate who had responsibility for employment and social affairs, said: "It has been my unhappy experience to see proposal after proposal which I have presented to the Council of Ministers not accepted simply because the British, in total isolation, opposed them."

After citing a whole series of measures brought by Britain and blocked, Mr Richard speaking in Cardiff added: "And because of this obduracy on the part of the British Government is because of its ideological view that the only way to solve unemployment is to leave it to market forces."

He added: "Thus we have Nigel Lawson claiming that the Government has no role to play in reducing unemployment.

"We also have a government parroting such phrases that if people want to work they must price themselves into jobs."

Mr Richard continued: "I consider this to be an absurd point of view.

Referring to America's economic policy, he said it was principally because of the existence of the massive public deficit that the Americans had managed to overcome their economic difficulties and to create millions of new jobs in the past two years."

He added: "Yet the whoe thrust of the British Government's policy is to cut and cut and cut the public sector borrowing requirement, which is our equivalent of the US budget deficit.

Soldier gets life for Ulster murder

Continued from page 1

the accused had no honest belief that the deceased was going to draw a gun and shoot him."

The judge said Mr Reilly, who had been drinking, acted in a disorderly manner, ran away from an army patrol and that a corporal had shouted "Get him".

Thain had been thinking intelligently, had shouted three times "stop, army, or I'll fire", but the judge said that by his decision and deeds he had not been in a very frightened or emotional state. He had needed a steady hand to bring a rifle with a telescope sight to to his eyes and fire through the heart of the deceased.

Thain had not made sure his shot hit its target after the shooting he had run with a colleague to within five yards of the dead man and failed to warn his colleague that the deceased was armed or had attempted to shoot him.

The judge said Thain had not searched for Mr Reilly's weapons, suggested a search should be made and had not explained the man was armed when he was asked by a senior officer what had happened.

"The accused's reticence astonishes me. I am satisfied beyond all reasonable doubt that the reason for the accused failing to give this explanation for his action for so long was that this is a defence which he has since concocted."

Thain was said to have been deeply affected by the death of Private Curtis, a colleague from the same town who was killed in a booby trap bomb. An army witness said that on patrol Thain lacked confidence and that after the death of Private Curtis he had lost more confidence and been upset.

PARLIAMENT DECEMBER 14 1984 Sexual harassment ● Too many empty houses

Check on landlords in bed and breakfast accommodation survey

COMMONS

Mr Ian Gow, Minister for Housing and Construction, announced in the Commons that he had just approved a research project to be carried out by the Department of the Environment and to include a survey of bed and breakfast landlords and the experiences of those who lived in this type of accommodation.

He made the announcement after hearing graphic descriptions by Mr Roland Boyes (Houghton and Washington, Lab) of how homeless families accommodated in bed and breakfast lodgings and in multiple occupation housing were being subjected to threats of violence, sexual harassment and poor living conditions.

There was, he said, evidence of sexual harassment of women residents by landlords to provide sexual favours in return for a rent reduction or in lieu of eviction when Giro cheques were delayed. This evidence was not merely hearsay; he had written statements he could produce.

Mr Gow said he did not quarrel with some of the descriptions used by Mr Boyes. He had seen some of this accomodation for himself and even as a temporary expedient, it was unsatisfactory.

It was a criminal offence for anyone to turn a tenant out of his or her home without a court order or to use intimidation or violence or to withhold services like gas or electricity. If any tenant considered he was being harassed, he or she should complain to his local authority which had powers to prosecute.

Speaking during the debate initiated by Mr Boyes who called on the Government to introduce legislation to regulate conditions and charges in houses in multiple occupation and to review its latest proposals for board and lodgings payments, Mr Gow said it was a continuing scandal that there should be 25,300 local authority owned houses and flats which had been empty for more than 12 months. If some of these houses and flats could be brought into use, they would make a significant contribution to solving the problems being debated.

The DOE had completed a study of the problems of the 20 authorities with the highest numbers of long-term empty dwellings.

In taking action on this, he was extending the eligibility for housing association grant to short-life properties in local authority ownership. The extension of this grant would enable housing associations to put local authority dwellings back into use.

They were also making a grant to the empty property unit established by Shelter to further its work in providing advice and information to housing associations and others about the short-term use of empty property.

He would be giving fresh advice to local authorities describing ways in which better management practices could reduce the number of empty dwellings. He would emphasize the scope for using short-life schemes and short-term lettings to bring empty properties into use and rehouse families accepted as homeless and others in greatest need. Authorities should regard bed and breakfast as a last resort.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, would be announcing the housing investment programme allocations shortly. They were changing the method of making allocations, related specifically to the problems of the homeless.

The national total of resources was distributed, using a generalized needs index. That index was also used in part in the distribution to individual local authorities. One indicator in the index was homelessness an indicator which made up 10 per cent of total generalized needs index.

It was based on the number of lettings to homeless households. In the past they had used the number of secure lettings, but following discussions, they would also be including non-secure lettings in 1985-86 in the calculation, a useful change in methodology.

Mr Boyes said much bed and breakfast and multiple occupied accommodation was characterized by damp bedrooms, inadequate heating, overcrowded washing facilities, enforced sharing of bedrooms sometimes with partners of the opposite sex, and poor quality food.

Boyes: Homeless families subjected to threats

Existing legislation was inadequate and ineffectual in requiring local authorities to maintain proper standards in houses in multiple occupation and yet the Government insisted there was no need for new legislation.

Mr Gerrard Neale (Cornwall North, C) said the headlines had talked about people living in the lovely town of Newquay, not working and claiming money. What had been exposed was almost a national scandal.

There were examples of people looking for accommodation being given one price if they were on benefit and another if they were paying privately. This was scandalous. He welcomed Government limits on claims by 16 and 17-year-olds.

Mr Roger Gale (Thanet North, C) said details of rent sent to the DHSS sometimes included beer money, and there was credit at the bar which was kept open late into the night.

Taxpayers were paying through the nose for sub-standard accommodation; the racket must be stopped.

Mr Michael Meacher, chief Opposition spokesman on social services, said: the Government's insistence on people returning to their normal office area was reviving the practice of parish relief of the Elizabethan Poor Law, when people were hounded from parish to parish.

He urged the Government to think again about the appalling misery these new measures would bring about for some of the most helpless and innocent members of society. The proposals would mean savings for the Government but increased overcrowding, slum conditions, squatting and, in some cases, sleeping rough in the streets. People would have to choose, after these regulations, between a bed and a meal.

What was needed was a revival of local authority house building and a duty placed on local authorities to provide permanent accommodation to a satisfactory standard for anyone who became homeless. Mandatory minimum standards were required to protect residents in multi-occupation.

Mr John Butterfill (Bournemouth West, C) said there had been advertisements in Liverpool papers by unscrupulous hoteliers inviting people to visit his constituency and occupy accommodation which would be paid for by the DHSS.

Some prime hotels in prime positions had gone over the DHSS claimants. The attraction to the "Costa del Dole" put an enormous strain on local resources. They had on their hands a national scandal which Government proposals went some way to correct.

Mr Raymond Whitney, Under Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, said the Government's proposals were flexible enough and there would be exceptional categories. But generally, youngsters ought not to stay within an area reasonably near their own home.

Concentrating aid where it was most needed was the basis of the Government's policy.

Spending on ordinary board and lodging had risen from £166 million a year in 1982 to £277 million in 1983. Estimates were that total was now running at £570 million a year and was likely to grow by another 50 per cent by December next year unless action was taken.

DHSS dispute draws to a close

By Nicholas Timmins

The remaining 350 striking computer staff at the Department of Health and Social Security offices in the north-east are to be told by their union to end the strike, now in its eighth month.

After a meeting of the executive of the Civil and Public Services Association yesterday, Mr Alastair Graham, the union's general secretary, said that the strikers will be recommended on Monday to start immediate negotiations on the management's latest offer with "a return to work as soon as possible".

"If the strikers were to say they wanted to continue the strike indefinitely then I think the executive would seriously consider withdrawing strike pay", he said.

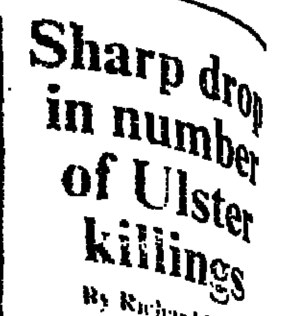
The management's offer, which will protect staff from losses in pay due to shift changes for three years subject to some conditions, was "the best offer that can be achieved and represents a significant victory for the action they have taken". Under civil service rules, earnings from changes in shift patterns are normally protected for only four weeks.

Correction

In the Special Report yesterday on the metropolitan counties, captions under the photographs of Mr John Gunnell, leader of West Yorkshire council, and Mr Roy Thwaites, leader of South Yorkshire council, were inadvertently transposed.

The Times overseas selling prices

Austria Sch 29; Belgium B frs 60; Canada $2.75; Canaries Pes 170; Cyprus 700 mils; Denmark Dkr 8.50; Finland Mkk 8.00; France Frs 7.00; Germany DM 3.50; Greece Dr 100; Holland Gl 3.40; Irish Republic 40p; Italy L 2200; Luxembourg Lf 35; Madeira Esc 125; Morocco Dir 8.00; Norway Kr 8.50; Pakistan Rps 18; Portugal Esc 125; Singapore $5.50; Spain Pes 175; Sweden Skr 8.50; Switzerland S Frs 3.00; Tunisia Din 0.700; USA $1.75; Yugoslavia Din 150



Sharp drop in number of Ulster killings

By Richard Ford Belfast

Soldier gets life for Ulster murder

Novelist jailed for nine months after helping woman commit suicide

Helen Hough, the author of children's books and murder mysteries was jailed for nine months yesterday for helping a "pathetically ill" old woman to commit suicide. Mrs Hough, aged 60, appeared stunned by the sentence.

The slightly built, silver-haired mother of four daughters, formerly married to the biographer Richard Hough, turned to walk out of the dock at the Central Criminal Court then retraced her steps and was led to the cells.

The Common Serjeant of London, Judge Pigot, said: "I have no desire to punish you but I must consider public policy and deter others, less altruistic than yourself, who might be attempting to accelerate death under different circumstances". A immediate custodial sentence was inevitable because of the gravity of the offence, the judge said.

Hough, a voluntary social worker who had looked after the elderly for many years, pleaded guilty on the third day of her trial to attempting to murder Miss Anita Harding, aged 84, who lived at an old people's home in Fitzroy Road, Regents Park, north London. The jury was directed to find Hough, of Ivor Street, Camden Town, north London, not guilty of murder.

Miss Harding, a former civil servant, who was almost blind, deaf and crippled by the "agony" of arthritis, was determined to end her life, had contacted Exit, the voluntary euthenasia organization, many times, and had obtained a "suicide manual", the court was told.

In November last year, she persuaded her friend, Hough, to be with her during her final hours. She had made "beautiful" arrangements for suicide, writing every instruction on a large sheet of paper, and putting a red ribbon around a plastic bag. She had pestered Hough for months to help her.

Hough provided sleeping tablets for Miss Harding.

More than two hours later, realising she was still alive, Hough, who had been holding her hand, placed the plastic bag over her head.

The judge said Hough was a caring, compassionate, and Christian woman, who had tried to talk Miss Harding out of committing suicide, and had given way to the old lady's demands only after anxious and careful consideration.

Mr George Carman, QC, for the defence, said Hough did not want to be linked with Exit. She had acted out of mercy for a pitiful human being and her case was one of the saddest a British jury had to consider. Hough was a "prisoner of her own promises".

Judge Pigot said that Hough had promised Miss Harding that if she would not survive and it was only her complete confession to the police last January that led to her being charged. "What you did, you did with the highest morals. But our law exists to protect the sanctity of life, even if that life is of a person in a coma, on the verge of death.

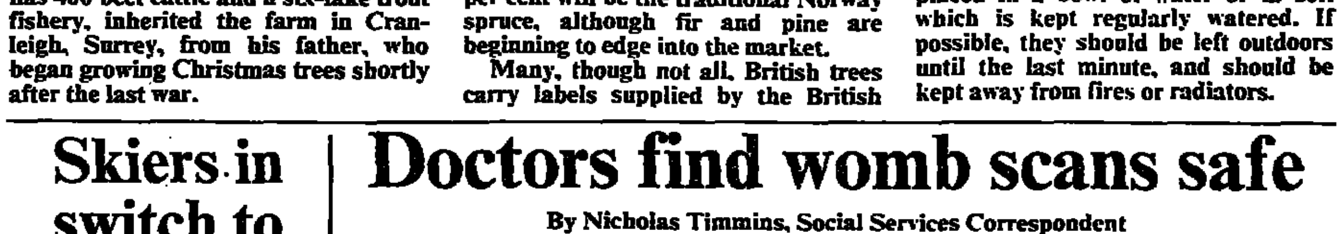


Mrs Hough: "Prisoner of her promises".

Mr Mark Syms fells Christmas trees on his Surrey farm. (Photograph: Peter Trievnor).

Tree growers on guard for Christmas

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent



Britain's Christmas tree growers are on their guard against thieves who threaten the three million trees they expect to sell this year.

Thefts of trees have become increasingly common and larger growers have had to mount elaborate security precautions.

Mr Mark Syms, a grower who also has 400 beef cattle and a six-lake trout fishery, inherited the farm in Cranleigh, Surrey, from his father, who began growing Christmas trees shortly after the last war.

There are now 60 acres, with about 3,000 trees to the acre, and he expects to sell about 20,000 this year, mostly direct to garden centres and shops.

Total sales in Britain are expected to reach about four million trees, of which about one million will be imported, mainly from Belgium, Holland and Scandinavia. More than 95 per cent will be the traditional Norway spruce, although fir and pine are beginning to edge into the market.

Many, though not all, British trees carry labels supplied by the British Christmas Tree Growers' Association. Those who like to choose their tree on the spot are usually welcome at most Forestry Commission and private plantations.

The association stresses that, in order for trees to stay fresh, they should be treated like house plants, placed in a bowl of water or in soil which is kept regularly watered. If possible, they should be left outdoors until the last minute, and should be kept away from fires or radiators.

Wife in IBM chief death case discharged

Mrs Yianoulla Robertson, aged 37, of Salters Lane, Hayling Island, Hampshire, was discharged yesterday by magistrates at Havant, Hampshire, when she appeared accused of soliciting Timothy John Smith to murder her husband, an IBM executive, Mr Michael Robertson.

Mrs Robertson left the court without saying anything and her solicitor, Mr William Meads, said: "She has no statement to make at all."

Later, Smith, aged 41, the Robertsons' family gardener of The Seafront, Hayling Islandd, was sent for trial at Winchester Crown Court accused of the murder of Mr Robertson.

Smith appeared in the dock with David Stacey, aged 37, of East Stoke Avenue, Hayling Island, who was accused of perverting the course of justice. Stacey was also sent for trial, on bail, to Winchester Crown Court.

Airbase damage charges

Six people were sent for trial yesterday charged with conspiring to commit criminal damage at two air bases in Cambridgeshire. Peterborough magistrates were told that the protesters were said to have made regular incursions into Alconbury and Molesworth bases.

Paul Briggs, aged 19; Sybilla Snake, aged 23; Veronica Dignam, aged 19; and Corrie McLaith, aged 24, all of Hockley Close, Newtown, Birmingham; Paul Rudolph, aged 19, of Pitmilly Road, Drumchapel, Glasgow, and Philip Hudson, aged 20, of Hinchcliffe, Orton Goldhay, Peterborough, were all bailed.

Television attacked over tobacco

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The BBC and independent television were accused yesterday of colluding with the tobacco companies to circumvent the ban on cigarette advertising on television.

Studies among 800 school children in Manchester earlier this year showed they were more aware of brands used in television sports sponsorship, and their awareness changed according to which cigarette-linked sports event had most recently been on television.

The study showed clearly that "TV sports sponsorship by tobacco manufacturers acts as cigarette advertising to children, and therefore circumvents the law banning cigarette advertisements on television," Dr Frank Ledwith, the research fellow at Manchester University who carried out the research, said yesterday.

The British Medical Association said yesterday that it was seeking meetings with the BBC and the Independent Broadcasting Authority to discuss ways of excluding tobacco brand names from television.

Dr John Dawson, head of the association's professional division said he believed that the BBC was probably in breach of its charter and that the independent companies were breaking the advertising ban. The association, he said, would not rule out seeking an injunction if the broadcasting authorities did not move.

Meanwhile the association is to back a private member's Bill being introduced to the House of Commons next week by Mr Roger Sims, Conservative MP for Chislehurst and vice-chairman of the Conservative health committee. It calls for a ban on tobacco sports sponsorship through a progressive reduction in such spending.

Dr Dawson said it was clear sport could survive without tobacco money. Athletics and swimming did well without it, and of 38 events last year where sponsors gave up, 34 found new sponsors within four months. "There is a waiting list of companies wishing to take up events they want to sponsor".

Dr David Player, director general of the Health Education Council, said smoking was still claiming 100,000 lives a year and most started as teenagers or children. "Sports sponsorship was subliminal advertising.

Labour vow to ban BBC adverts

By Our Political Reporter

Mr Gerald Kaufman, the Shadow Home Secretary, pledged yesterday that the next Labour government would stop BBC advertising if it were introduced under the Conservatives.

Mr Kaufman deplored hints of support for advertising on some BBC radio and television channels given by the Prime Minister on the day the corporation launched its campaign to increase the colour television licence fee to £65.

"Whatever its failings the BBC fulfils an essential role that would be irreparably damaged by the introduction of advertising, a role that must not be subject to overt or covert commercial pressures," he said in a speech to Shrewsbury Labour Party.

It was the existence of BBC standards of quality that had helped the best of the commercial companies to resist lowering their own standards.

Viewers and listeners who found commercial interruptions offensive had the right to enjoy broadcasting free of them.

Skiers in switch to find snow

By Richard Dowden

A travel company has switched two aircraft loads of hopeful skiers from Austria to France in the search for snow in the Alps, which has been scarce so far this year.

Apart from a few resorts and the glaciers which offer all-year-round skiing, there is little more than a sprinkle of snow in the Alps, and if this does not improve thousands of holiday-makers who will head for the Alps for Christmas will have to make the Après Ski last all day.

The Meteorological Office in London said yesterday that winds in southern Europe had been southerly and that any snow which had fallen was high up and melted quickly in the warm winds.

He said a weakening front approaching across France should bring some snow to the slopes this weekend. Skiers should not panic yet.

Schools Abroad, which specializes in taking schoolchildren skiing, said that about 300 people had been switched from Badgastein and Muhlbach in Austria to Puy St Vincent in France yesterday.

Thomsons and Neilson holidays said they would bus skiers to slopes where there was snow, if there was none at the resorts where they were staying. If there were no snow at all, clients would be paid a daily compensation. The two companies are expecting to carry about 1,000 holidaymakers each this weekend to the Alps and about 3,000 a week over Christmas.

Austria seems to be worst off. The Tourist Office in London said it usually received snow reports regularly at this time of year but there had been silence from Austria so far. Only at Lech, Zurs, St Anton and Obergurgl was there enough snow for skiing.

In Switzerland only the glaciers could be used for skiing at the moment, a spokesman for the Tourist Office said, but it was improving.

Only France has had some snow, in the Maritime Alps, but there is still no skiing at most of the leading resorts, except for La Plagne and Isola 2000.

Several important international skiing events have already been cancelled through lack of snow, including the Premiere Neige at Val d'Isère

Off piste rewards, page 10

Doctors find womb scans safe

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

There is enough evidence that ultrasound scanning of the womb in pregnancy is safe for it to continue to be used routinely, the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists said yesterday.

The Department of Health should withdraw its recent advice to health authorities not to offer scanning as a routine procedure. The scans offer "very real benefits", according to Professor Stuart Campbell, chairman of the college's working party on ultrasound, whose report was published yesterday.

The scans allowed doctors to establish accurately the age of the foetus, to spot babies with retarded growth, to diagnose twins early, so reducing their greater risk of death, and to spot abnormalities "the vast majority of which would never be discovered without ultrasound".

That could allow abortions if the defects were serious, or in some cases operations either in the womb or immediately after birth to correct or alleviate the condition.

"Ultrasound has played a very important part in improving the chances of a mother having a live baby", Professor Campbell said.

The college says that after a thorough review of the literature on scans, which have been in use for 20 years, "no substantial evidence has been produced that diagnostic ultrasound may be harmful".

In October Mr John Patten, Under Secretary of State at the Department of Health and Social Security, said that hospitals should not offer scans routinely. Laboratory tests in the United States suggested ultrasound could damage cells. A World Health Organization committee has also advised against routine scanning, and Mr Patten has asked the Medical Research Council to review its safety.

But the college said others had not been able to reproduce the American results.

The college says that mothers should clearly not be persuaded into having routine scans against their will, even though it supports their continued use. Mothers should understand what was involved. Standards of training should be raised and a senior doctor should take charge of regular scanning sessions to raise the accuracy of scans.

A new standard for the intensity of ultrasound beams should be established.

M25 crash inquests

A victim of this week's M25 crash Mr Stephen Arnold a lorry driver, of Swanley, Kent was incinerated and could be identified only by personal belongings, a coroner was told when the first two inquests opened yesterday. The Surrey coroner, Lt Col George MC Ewan adjourned both inquests to a later date, and hearings on the other seven victims of the crash are to take place over the next few days.

Writer jailed over drugs

Mr Peter 'Taki' Theodoracopulous, aged 48, a columnist with *The Spectator* went to jail yesterday for four months after an appeal against sentence was dismissed at Southwark Crown Court.

He was arrested at Heathrow Airport on July 23 trying to bring 24.1 grammes of cocaine through customs.

Raid victim badly injured

Mr Brian Mitchell, a businessman was in hospital in Epping with serious injuries after three men broke into his home at Thornwood Common, Epping, Essex and bound and gagged his wife and son. The men escaped with jewellery worth £20,000, fur coats, commemorative plates and two video recorders.

Austin parts 'far cheaper' than rivals

By Clifford Webb Motoring Correspondent

Spare parts for two of the most popular Japanese cars sold in Britain are more than 50 per cent more expensive than their Austin Rover equivalents, according to the latest survey of the cost of motoring by the Automobile Association.

Twenty parts most frequently required in the first five years of a car's life cost £692.39 for the Austin Maestro, £1,058.30 for the Nissan Stanza and £1,069.23 for the Toyota Carina.

Maestro spares were the cheapest of the eight popular British European and Japanese 1.6 litre family saloons in the survey. But Ford's Sierra cost only 12p more.

Another BL car, the Austin Montego, was third, followed by the Vauxhall Cavalier, Renault 18 TS, VW Jetta, Nissan Stanza and Toyota Carina.

This independent confirmation of Austin Rover's claim that its cars are cheaper to run than its rivals should boost sales to fleet owners who are particularly impressed by replacement costs. The Montego, in particular, is aimed at this market.

The Japanese still import too many spare parts which could be obtained cheaper in this country.

MPs oppose VAT charge on famine aid record

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Government came under mounting pressure yesterday from Conservative as well as opposition MPs to make an exception and not to levy value-added tax on the sales of the pop records made by several groups to raise money for Ethiopian famine relief.

Mr Robert Rhodes James, the Conservative MP for Cambridge, will be among a delegation organized by Mr Anthony Blair, Labour MP for Sedgefield, and including members of the groups who will see Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer next week to urge him to ensure that the VAT revenues from the record, "Don't They Know It's Christmas", go to famine relief.

Meanwhile Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, wrote to the Prime Minister saying that the Government could ensure that the good intentions of those who produced and those who bought the record were fulfilled by giving such an undertaking.

"This would of course be an exceptional act but clearly the Ethiopian famine and the magnificently generous reponse of the British people to the horror have produced exceptional circumstances".

Mr Rhodes James, chairman of the Spot Polio Campaign run by the Save the Children Fund, and a member of the fund's council, voted against the Government recently over the proposed cuts in foreign aid.

He said yesterday: "The artists gave their services free. People buying the record are doing so because it is a very good record and because they want to relieve the misery and hardship in Africa, not because they want to contribute to the revenues of the Chancellor."

Publishing jobs fear

By David Hewson

The imposition of VAT on books and newspapers would threaten at least 5,000 jobs in publishing, the British Printing Industries Federation claimed yesterday.

The extension of the 15 per cent tax to reading material, which is thought to be under consideration by the Treasury, would damage the social and economic life of the country, the federation says in a study to be presented to the Government.

Mr Stanley Bradley, the director general of the federation, said: "The economic damage caused by VAT gives added weight to the strong cultural and educational arguments against VAT. On any basis a tax on reading is neither desirable nor useful and will destroy a vital part of export effort".

The federation claims that the introduction of VAT would lead to distortions of trade and unfair competition between publishers.

The move could also create a market in magazines produced abroad and posted to subscribers in Britain, since those would not attract VAT, the federation says.

Grand Hotel repair plan unveiled

By Charles Knevitt Architecture Correspondent

The Grand Hotel in Brighton, badly damaged in the IRA bomb attack on the Cabinet in October, is to be rebuilt at a cost of £2.5 million. Work is expected to start early next year and be completed in June 1986. Clearing up work has just been finished. The De Vere Group, part of Greenhall Whitley, owners of the Grand since August, will meet next month to consider the options for its reconstruction.

The seafront elevation of the 150-room hotel, a Grade II listed building, will be restored to its original design. Some new facilities, such as a swimming pool, may be added.

The hotel was built in the Italian Renaissance style and opened in 1864. It was criticized for being "not Anglican" and as a "Cyclopean pile". It was one of the first hotels in the country with electric lighting and lifts and among the grandest of its day.

The strength of the building withstood the bomb attack well. A similar bomb in a modern, lightweight constructed building, would have resulted in far greater damage and loss of life.

● The report of the police investigation into security at the Grand before the bombing has been passed to the Chief Constable of Sussex.

It is understood to recommend providing ministers with accommodation away from party conferences. The report will be sent to Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary and is expected to be discussed publicly by the Sussex police authority early next year.



Vote of thanks: Mr Michael Portillo, Conservative victor in the Enfield Southgate by-election, with his wife Carolyn touring the constituency (Photograph: Bill Warhurst).

Man jailed for DHSS fraud

Paul Lyons, aged 23, who made £700 in less than a week by using dead babies' birth certificates to make multiple bogus claims for DHSS benefit offices around London, was jailed for six months yesterday.

The court heard that he was finally arrested when police raided a hotel in Belgrave Road, and found four birth certificates in his room.

Longer life for motorways will cut delays

Motorway delays will be reduced over the next decade, Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for Transport, announced yesterday that the department will increase the structural strength of new motorways to give them a life of 20 years, instead of 10 to 15 years, before big repairs are needed.

Mrs Chalker told the Institution of Highways and Transportation in London that the capital cost of a bituminous motorway would rise by between 10 and 15 per cent, about £2 million a mile, and save perhaps 50 per cent on maintenance over a road's life.

With trunk road maintenance totalling £20 million a year, nearly half the £450 million spent on new construction, large savings are expected if reduced delays to road-users are considered. They could amount to about 15 per cent of the cost of the programme, more than £50 million a year.

Delays on motorways have increased steadily over the past two to three years as the first generation of motorways built in the 1960s crumble earlier than expected, partly because of heavier lorry traffic then predicted.

Mrs Chalker also said consultants were to assess the future of the Dartford tunnel

Teacher 'set up shop offering drugs to order'

Mr Richard Catherwood, a London schoolteacher, was accused of running a drugs shop in which, if an item was "not in stock, you could order it and come back another day", a judge said yesterday.

Summing up at the start of the fifth day of Catherwood's trial at the Inner London Crown Court, Judge Suzanne Norwood said the prosecutor claimed that everything was on offer to drug users at his south London flat.

Catherwood, of Melbourne Grove, East Dulwich, south-east London, has denied six charges including supplying and offering to supply LSD, cocaine and cannabis resin, and possessing controlled drugs with intent to supply.

He has admitted three charges of supplying cannabis resin and unlawfully possessing LSD and cannabis.

On Wednesday he was cleared of one of the charges, supplying cannabis resin.

The court has been told Lee Sawyer, aged 16, fell to his death from a block of flats in East Dulwich and was found to have taken LSD shortly before the incident. It has been alleged Catherwood supplied the drug

After nearly three hours of summing-up, the judge said she would send out the jury to consider their verdict on Monday.

Two sentenced

Police Constable Lance Perks, aged 32, of Nightingale Lane, Clapham, was jailed for 18 months at the Central Criminal Court yesterday and Patrick Cummins, aged 53, of Stenhold Avenue, Streatham, a warden of a police hostel, was sentenced to nine months and banned for a year for reckless driving. Both were convicted of conspiring to pervert justice.

'Coke' clothes

The Coca-Cola company has agreed a deal with Murjani Industries of Hong Kong to make belts, buttons and zips for sports and casual wear to be marketed as "Coca Cola Clothes".

Terror suspect

Special Branch officers were yesterday questioning a man held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act at Paddington Green police station, north London.

'Legion' death

Mr Robert Sutton, aged 61, of Ford, Bootle, Merseyside, died in Walton Hospital, Liverpool yesterday after contracting legionnaire's decease. He had been admitted three weeks ago after returning from Spain with a perforated ulcer.

Man loses fight to remain in 2-bedroom flat

Mr Eric French, who lives alone in a two-bedroom council flat in Masefield Crescent, Southgate, north London, has been forced to give up his home for a needy family.

Yesterday High Court judges dismissed his appeal against a possession order from the Borough of Enfield. Neighbours had signed a petition saying he should be allowed to stay. But the council has decided that he must move to a single-bedroom flat because his old home is under-occupied.

Lord Justice Stephenson, sitting with Lord Justice Robert Goff, described it as a very sad case brought about by the housing shortage in London.

He ruled that a county court order made in November last year was lawful.

Chain stolen

The sheriff of Norwich's official gold chain of office, valued at more than £9,000, was stolen from the Lord Mayor's Daimler yesterday.

Zoo to woo visitors with £8m grant

By Tony Samstag

With almost £8 million to spend over the next three years, London Zoo was revelling yesterday in the unwonted luxury of planning ahead.

On Thursday, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, ended several years of suspense with the announcement that the financially troubled institution was to lose its dubious distinction as the only national zoo in the world to operate without some form of Government subsidy. The grants are to come in two instalments of £3 million this year and next and up to £2.75 million in 1986 with a review thereafter.

Much of the present financial year's grant will be needed to pay off the zoo's overdraft, which is approaching £2 million. After that, the zoo sees a series of projects stretching over about 15 years.

"It will not be difficult to spend the money", Mr John Boyer, chief executive of the Zoological Society of London said. "But we have a lot to demolish before we can start putting anything up."

At Regent's Park, work is to start almost immediately on demolition of the old birds of prey aviary and the education block, where a new aquarium is to be built. The parrot and ostrich houses, eastern aviaries and Mappin Terraces would follow, with a number of old redundant buildings also due for demolition.

Improvements at the society's other zoo, at Whipsnade Park in Bedfordshire, are seen as steps in the development of the site into a family leisure facility where visitors will be encouraged to spend a complete day.

The object at both sites will be to make them more attractive to visitors by having "fewer animals in more pleasant surroundings", Mr Boyer said. Spectacular construction projects, particularly on the small Regent's Park site, were unlikely as they tended to cost too much to heat and maintain.

Small projects such as the Clore Pavilion for small mammals in Regent's Park, which has proved to be as popular with visitors as with scientists, were much more cost-effective.

In his announcement, Mr Jenkin stressed the zoological Society's standing as "a learned society with an international reputation in the fields of conservation and scientific research". The animal collections at the Regent's Park and Whipsnade zoos should not, in the Government's view, continue indefinitely to be a large drain on the Exchequer.

East-West dialogue resumes

Howe says patient talks with Russia must go on from here to eternity

From Ian Murray, Brussels

There is a need for patient, sustained dialogue with the Soviet Union "from here to eternity", Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday after the winter meeting of Nato's foreign ministers in Brussels.

East-West relations had dominated the two-day session, especially preparations for next month's meeting in Geneva between Mr George Shultz, the American Secretary of State, and Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister.

Mr Shultz promised his European allies the fullest possible consultation on what happened in Geneva and afterwards. The European countries were agreed that they could jointly help to create the right atmosphere for any future arms control talks by maintaining a constant dialogue on the broadest front with the Soviet Union.

Generally the agreement was that the United States had to be left to negotiate arms controls, but that other alliance members should entend their contacts at every level with Warsaw pact countries.

As far as the Genava talks were concerned, no one would go beyond the hope that these would lead to other talks on arms control. The Soviet Union was not expected to want to resume these in the same form as before, with separate negotiations on medium-range and stratagic nuclear weapons.

Mr Shultz promised, however, that medium-range weapons would be involved in any arms control negotiations.

The final communique, the first produced since Lord Carrington became Secretary-general was a new, streamlined version, pruned to just 2½ pages.

The communique insisted that if no concreate negotiated result emerged, the deployment of cruise and Pershing (2) missiles would proceed, as planned. Neither Belgium nor Holland demurrad from this, even if both Denmark and Greece put in a reserve. This indicates that Mr Shultz has succeeded in persuading the Dutch and Belgian ministers, of the importance of keeping to their promise to allow cruise missiles to be deployed in their countries.

"We have got to maintain, and will maintain, unity," Lord Carrington said at the end of the meeting. He was particularly pleased with the way in which there had been the fullest exchange of views. "This qualified as consultation in the best sense of the word. Ministers have left this meeting feeling they have participated in one of the best aspects of the alliance".

He felt, too, that if arms control talks remained a subject for negotiation between the two superpowers "there are wider issues in which Europe can help".

Sir Geoffrey, too, insisted on this point. The Geneva talks were only "the beginning of the beginning", he said. Nobody should expect any quick results and there had to be a ceaseless effort of dialogue on the broadest of fronts.

● STOCKHOLM: The Soviet Union attacked what it called the growth of revanchist forces in West Germany as the European Disarmament Conference completed its first year yesterday (Reuter reports).

Delegates from Nato countries expressed disappointment at the Soviet criticism, saying it had spoiled the generally good atmosphere at the conference since it agreed on a new working structure 10 days ago.

Mr Oleg Grinevsky, the Soviet Ambassador, said in his closing speech that his country "could not remain indifferent to a phenomenon which in effect disputes the existing frontiers between the European states which have taken shape after the Second World War.

"Revanchist forces in the Federal Republic of Germany play a major and substantial role in the political life of that country," he told reporters.

The term "revanchism" is used in Eastern Europe to mean the desire to expand West Germany' borders in violation of treaties between Bonn and Warsaw Pact countries.

The 35-nation Stockholm conference, which began last January with a mandate to reduce the risk of war in Europe, ended its fourth session yesterday and will adjouru until January 29.

Round-world week for Thatcher

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Mrs Margaret Thatcher starts one of the busiest weeks of her premiership today, during which she will hold talks with three world leaders in different parts of the globe.

They begin in London with the arrival today of Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, Number Two in the Soviet Communist Party hierarchy, who will be at Chequers for lunch and extensive discussions with the Prime Minister tomorrow.

On Monday, she leaves for Peking, to sign the Anglo-Chinese agreement on Hong Kong, later in the week she will meet Chinese leaders while there, including Mr Deng Xiaoping.

Mrs Thatcher will complete a week in which she will spend more than 50 hours in the air by stopping off at Washington on her return, first for a breakfast meeting with Vice-President George Bush, and then for a tête-á-tête with President Reagan at his official country retreat at Camp David.

East-West relations and the forthcoming meeting in Geneva between Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, and Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, will dominate discussions in London and Washington. While in Peking, however, the Prime Minister will also want to encourage more Anglo-Chinese trade, now running at about £300 million a year in each direction.

Meanwhile, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office announced last night that Sir Geoffrey Howe is to make a five-day stop tour of Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey in February. It will be the first time that a British Foreign Secretary has been to Bulgaria for more than 100 years.

The visit is of interest in the contest of the increasing contact between Britain and countries in the eastern block. Sir Geoffrey will be in Romania on February 9-10, Bulgaria on February 10-11, and Turkey on February 11-13.

Gesture of despair: A Lebanese woman raises her arms in a graphic gesture as she protests over Israeli Army security operations in her village and in six others during which three villagers were killed.

Revenge calls against Israeli raiders

From Christopher Walker, Tel Aviv

In severe weather conditions, and without prior announcement, the Israeli Army has started a security clamp-down against suspected Shia Muslim extremists in southern Lebanon regarded by military observers as the most drastic since the 1982 invasion.

A strike has been called throughout the region today in protest against the sweep, which began before dawn on Thursday when a large armoured force sealed off seven villages around Tyre and arrested at least 40 suspects from lists drawn up by Israeli Intelligence.

Yesterday sit-down protests were reported in many mosques in southern Lebanon, and the Israeli swoop was condemned by Egypt, which is demanding an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon as a condition for the planned summit conference between President Hosni Mubarak and Mr Shimon Peres, Israel's Prime Minister.

During the operation, which UN soldiers were barred from observing, a 14-year-old Lebanese girl was killed and the troops fired in the air several times to disperse hostile crowds. UN sources claimed there had been an exchange of fire between Israeli troops and a French unit of Unifil, the Interim Force in Lebanon.

Reports yesterday spoke of heightened tension, with Shia Muslim leaders calling for revenge against Israeli forces, whose main target seems to have been supporters of the Shia Amaz organization. Military sources claim that large quantities of weapons have been seized.

Mr Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's Defence Minister, said: "Today, what we face in Lebanon is a Shia-Israeli war rather than a PLO-Israeli war, and I would like to avoid it."

In diplomatic circles, there are fears that Israel's new policy could threaten the fragile troop withdrawal talks at Naqoura in southern Lebanon, which have so far achieved no progress.

A session due to begin four hours after the military operation was launched had to be postponed because wintry weather grounded UN helicopters due to fly Lebanese delegates from Beirut. They cannot travel by road because of the security situation.

Questioned about the possible effect on the talks of the security clamp-down, Mr Rabin said: "I clearly distinguised our wish, our desire, to find a political solution, and the need to cope effectively with the many attempts on our soldiers."

Defending the operation, which provoked Lebanon's Prime Minister, Mr Rashid Karami to describe Israel as "behaving like a wolf", Mr Rabin said: "What has been done was a military operation to bring about more security to our forces."

● BEIRUT (AP): Mr Karami yesterday instructed his Ambassador at the United Nations, Mr Rashid Fakhoury, to protest to the Security Council about Israel's "atrocities" in the sweep against villages in southern Lebanon.

The announcement came as masked motorcycle gunmen shot and killed a senior Druse Army officer and his aide on a busy Beirut street, and Christian and Druse militiamen battled with artillery in the Kharroub mountains north of the Israeli occupation zone, breaking a truce

The Druse officer, Lieutenant Colonel Adel Abu Rabia, was hit at least 35 times as machine-gun bullets swept his Land-Rover. He was commander of a 6th Brigade battalion stationed along the "green line" dividing Beirut into Christian and Muslim sectors.

Guns seized on eve of key Noumea negotiations

Noumea (APF) – New Caledonian security forces have seized 40 guns after isolated incidents on the eve of weekend talks between the French special envoy and political factions on the future of the French Pacific territory

At Hienghène, militants of the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front ransacked 15 houses and two shops.

Security forces seized 30 guns, and ten more were seized about six miles away at Panié. At Yaté in the south, militants set up roadblocks in protest against five arrests for arson and looting.

Meanwhile the special envoy, M Edgard Pisani, is due to begin three days of negotiations today by meeting M Jacques Lafleur, leader of the anti-indepedece Gaullist Party for Caledonia in the Republic.

Aquino killing witness found

Manila (AP) – Miss Rebecca Quijano, who investigators think may have seen the assassination of the opposition leader Benigno Aquino, has been found by police. Lawyers said yesterday she was willing to testify in the trial of high military officials accused of being involved in the killing.

Miss Quijano, aged 32, is known as "the crying lady" because, according to some reports, she was crying and shouting "They already shot him" before she was led away from journalists at Manila airport minutes after Aquino's killing.

Ali seeks $50m

Washington (Reuter) – Muhammad Ali, the former world heavyweight boxing champion, has filed a $50 million (£42 million) lawsuit arising from his 1967 conviction for evading military call-up during the Vietnam war.

Skipper blamed

Hamburg (AP) – A 66-year-old pleasure boat skipper suffering from partial night blindness bears sole responsibility for the October 2 accident in Hamburg harbour that killed 19 people, including 11 children, maritime authorities ruled.

Hijack alert

Kuwait (AP) – The United States sent a special combat unit to an unidentified Arab nation bordering Iran ready to launch a commando raid to free hostages on the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner at Tehran if they were not released, the newspaper al-Qabas said.

Holiday spree

Vienna (AP) – Austria's Constitution Court declined to hear a Government complaint against the governor of Salzburg province for letting stores stay open on the December 8 national holiday.

Prices rocket

Jerusalem (Reuter) – Prices rose by an average 9.5 per cent in Israel last month despite a wage-and-price freeze, keeping annual inflation at around 800 per cent, the Central Bureau of Statistics said.

Tornado havoc

Dallas (Reuter) – A freak string of tornadoes skipped along a 300-mile path from San Antonio to Dallas yesterday, injuring at least 40 people and destroying scores of buildings.

Censors relent

Capt Town (Reuter) – South Africa's official censors have lifted banning orders on books by the presidents of Mozambique, Zambia and Tanzania.

Burning issue

Taipei. (Reuter) – Taiwan will draft new laws to protect tigers from the latest craze for tiger meat, the Interior Ministry said.

Correction

European Notebook (December 10) should have described Selby as a deep mine not an opencast pit.

Battle over US arms budget

Reagan sides with Weinberger

From Bailey Morris, Washington

President Reagan appears to have sided with his Defence Secretary in resisting big cuts in military spending in a decision that may stalemate the entire budget-cutting process and lead to a fierce confrontation in Congress a senior official said.

Although Mr Reagan has made no final decision on the defence budget, he indicated at a Cabinet meeting on Wednesday that he supports a plan by Mr Casper Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, for only modest cuts over the next three years.

The tentative decision by President Reagan to accept cuts far short of the $58 billion (£48 billion) which had been proposed means that the President is also likely to fall far short of his goal of cutting the deficit in half to $100 billion by 1988, the senior official said.

Mr Reagan apparently agrees with Mr Weinberger's assertion that cuts in defence spending will send the wrong signals to the Soviet Union on the eve of arms negotiations. Defence officials have stated repeatedly during the difficult budget negotiations that the arms talks are taking place because of American strength and Soviet fears of new United States technology.

The senior official said that Mr Weinberger tried to soften his tough Cabinet presentation in support of the military budget with a footnote suggesting that defence totals could he reduced if Mr Reagan wins an arms reduction agreement from the Russians.

Mr Weinberger's proposal angered other member of the President's budget-cutting "core group" who are in agreement that Mr Reagan's bold effort to reduce Government spending requires balanced cuts in both domestic and defence programmes.

Both Republican leaders in Congress and other Cabinet officials have warned the President that his new budget must pass a "fairness' test in order to stand a chance of passage.

If the Defence Department escapes with only minor cuts while others are being asked to accept "draconian cuts" to reduce the record deficit, "it will make it more difficult to keep the Cabinet in line and impossible to keep Congress in line", the senior official said.

Mr Weinberger proposed cuts in military spending of only $19 billion in lieu of the $58 billion which have been proposed over the next three years.

If Mr Reagan agrees, he will either have to give up his goal of halving the deficit by 1988 or find additional revenues through more domestic cuts, which are unlikely to be accepted, or by changing his mind on tax increases

Heart man recovering from stroke

From Our Correspondent Washington

Mr William Schroeder had a restful night following a stroke 18 days after receiving his artificial heart. Doctors said yesterday they were encouraged by signs of recovery.

Dr Allan Lansing, medical director of the Humana Heart Institute in Louisville, Kentucky, told a news conference that Mr Schroeder's right arm was still partially paralysed. He was trying to speak but was unable to communicate normally.

He could understand those around him and smiled when Dr Lansing joked with him.

Dr Lansing expected him to be out of bed within 48 hours if he continued to improve. He stuck to his estimate that Mr Schroeder could be released from hospital in two to four weeks if his recovery goes well.

Mr Schroeder, aged 52, a retired munitions worker of Jasper, Indiana, suffered the stroke while having supper with his wife, Margaret, on Thursday evening.

He immediately underwent a computerized axial tomography, or CAT, scan of the brain "and this showed us fortunately there was no evidence of haemorrhaging or bleeding." Dr Lansing said. The test ruled out a cerebral haemorrhage as a possible cause.

Dr Lansing said the cause could have been Mr Schroeder's diabetic condition, the coronary artery disease that led to the heart implant, or a blood clot in a valve of the $15,000 plastic and aluminium heart. It would take seven to 10 days to determine the cause.

Mr Schroeder received the heart on November 25. He is the second recipient of a mechanical heart. The first, Mr Barney Clark, a dentist, lived for 112 days after his surgery two years ago.

Refugees in embassy start a fast

From Michael Binyon Bonn

Forty of the 68 East Germans still in the West German Embassy in Prague yesterday began a hunger strike to back up their demands for exist visas to the.

Bonn sent Herr Ludwig Rehlinger, the State Secretary in the Ministry of Inner-German Relations, to Prague to dissuade the desperate would-be emgigrants from this step, but without success. Herr Peter Boenish, the Government spokesman, yesterday officially regretted the strike,

Chancellor Helmut Kohl, has written to the refugees, many of whom have been more than two months in the embassy and emphasized Bonn's efforts to negotiate a solution with East Berlin. But Bonn says they must all first return to East Germany, where they have been promised immunity from punishment.

The Government announced yesterday that altogether 347 East Germans have tried to emigrate to the West by fleeing into the Prague Embassy this year. The issue will probably be raised in talks Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister, will have in Prague next week

Herr Genscher is not to take any journalists as part of his party for his visit to Czechoslovakia

Bonn is thus hoping to avert a repetition of last month's fiasco at the last minute, when Herr Genscher cancelled a trip to Poland because a journalist due to accompany him was refused a visa.

Israel envoy vents his anger at Greens MEP

From Our Own Correspondent, Bonn

Israel's ambassador in Bonn has sharply attacked what he sees as a "Jews out" policy of the Greens party after its inclusion in a delegation visiting the Middle East of a Member of the European Parliament convicted in Israel of arms smuggling.

Frau Brigitte Heinrichs, a 43-year-old Greens MEP, was jailed in 1980 for 21 months for importing weapons and explosives for terrorists. She is among six delegates who leave on Sunday for Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Israel.

The Greens plan to meet Palestine Liberation Organization leaders and also want to talk with Israeli Government officials. The delegation has distanced itself, however, from a controversial party paper on the Middle East

Mr Yitzhak Ben Ari, the Israeli ambassador in Bonn, said the Greens had a policy of "Juden raus" – the phrase used in Nazi Germany.

Tax evasion charge for Lambsdorff

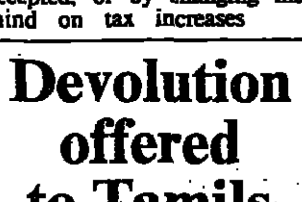
Bonn - The West German Bundestag yesterday again lifted the parliamentary immunity on Otto Lambsdorff to allow the public prosecutor to lay an additional charge of tax evasion against the former Economics Minster (Michael Bunyon writes).

Parliament has already lifted immunity from him over the charge of corruption in connection with a controversial tax waiver for the Flick group of companies.

The new charge alleges that as treasurer of the Free Democratic Party in North Rhine-Westphalia, Count Lambsdorff illegally helped to fund the party by funnelling money through charitable orgaizations, thus avoiding tax. Count Lambsdorff has denied this and the earlier charge of corruption.



Voting with his feet: Mr Alexander Falconer, Labour member of the European Parliament for Mid-Scotland and Fife, is called to order by an usher in Strasbourg for putting his feet on his desk during the vote which threw out the EEC budget.



Devolution offered to Tamils

Colombo (Reuter, AP) – President Jayewardene yesterday announced a plan aimed at easing tension between Sinhalese and Tamils in Sri Lanka by devolving power to local bodies and creating a second legislative chamber.

He announced the plan to political, ethnic and religious leaders at a conference convened after about 400 people, mainly Tamils, were killed in ethnic violence in July last year. Nearly 400 more died in clashes last month as guerrillas stepped up their campaign for an independent Tamil state.

Jayewardene's plan envisages 4,500 organizations selected from volunteers at village level, with 250 elected bodies running higher-level local government and a third tier of 25 councils covering the island's districts.

In the latest terrorist incident last Wednesday, Tamil separatists abducted a professor of surgery from Jaffna Medical College and forced him with three other doctors to attend to a wounded guerrilla at gunpoint.

Police said yesterday that Professor Samuel Seeveratnam was resting at home when the gang arrived, pushed him into a van and drove to the Green Memorial Hospital at Manipay. Armed guards stood by until the surgery was completed, the doctor told police.

● DELHI: Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister said yesterday that there could be no military solution to the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka and urged Colombo, whose attitude had not been "very helpful", to find a political solution (AFP reports).

Speaking at his first election rally in Tamil Nadu state, Mr Gandhi said Tamils of Indian origin, especially stateless ones, felt increasingly insecure.

Bugis Street falls to the Singapore bulldozers

From Stephen Taylor Singapore

Bulldozers continue to grind through Singapore's picturesque but dilapidated Chinatown, where – like everywhere else in the prosperous city state – the handsome, crumbling edifices of the colonial era are being torn down for high-rise developments.

Among the areas most recently forced to submit to progress under the island's all-embracing land acquisition regulations is the once notorious strip of Bugis (pronounced "boogie") Street, which flourished in the 1960s and 1970s as one of Asia's more exotic fleshpots.

The delicate-featured creatures then found tripping down the walkways or loitering languidly at drinks stalls were, with few exceptions, not what they seemed – not women at all, in fact, but (frequently exquisite) transvestites.

Bugis Street developed an international reputation among trans-sexuals, and tourists, too, were drawn to the district, which had a garish appeal in Singapore's increasingly puritanical environment. Like rare species elsewhere, the transvestites were prepared to pose for a fee, and a thriving trade developed around the bars and eating stalls.

When, four years ago, the transvestites were moved on by the police, the street's nightlife was toned down, but it went on. The stallholders continued to serve drinks and fried noodles and tourists still come to wander curiously among fruit barrows.

But now the stallholders, too, have been ordered to pack up, and by the end of the month Bugis Street will be abandoned – the old, shuttered houses where most local traders live, as well as the stalls below – to the bulldozers.

There are sound municipal reasons why the ramshackle homes of Chinatown need to be replaced. The depredayions of the climate have rendered some unsafe; many are uncomfortable, cramped and without proper sewerage; and while the older inhabitants are loath to move, many younger and status-conscious Chinese would rather live in a high-rise Housing Development Board apartment, Singapore's version of the council estate. The majority of Singaporeans live in infinitely superior conditions to their parents through this housing policy.

But the old homes could have been restored in time to save them, retaining a characteristic and attractive feature of Singapore, as well as its heritage. Only belatedly have city planners, who appear to be motivated by a pervasive drive towards clean-cut modernity, awakened to the realization that by demolishing Chinatown they are destroying much of Singapore's appeal for tourists.

That is not to say that there are not enclaves where the city of instant condominiums scarcely out of wrappings might hardly exist. Along the back streets the clan associations thrive and the clatter of a mah jong game is heard behind shuttered windows. The passer-by glimpses inside flowers, burning incense and a shrine. On the pavements at night, sleepers sprawl oblivious on mats.

But there is more than the simply exotic to recommend Chinatown to the budget-conscious traveller. A clean hotel room here, furnished in rudimentary fashion but including air-conditioning, can be had for £11 a night: a single in the tourist hotel area of Orchard Road will cost between £70 and £120.

Perhaps the best value of all, though, is to be had at the food stall centres all over the island. Ten years ago the stalls were strung out along the streets, which offended the authorities' sense of order as well as the dictates of hygiene.

The stalls have been gathered under covered centres, but the quality of food is undiminished and the price incomparable. A steaming plate of noodles, beansprouts, egg, pork and clams costs just 80p and a dessert consisting of great slices of fresh pineapple, pawpaw, pear and jackfruit, deliciously chilled in ice, is even less. The cleanliness, as everywhere in modern Singapore, is remarkable.

Tenacious Sheriff France finally gets his men

From a Correspondent, New York

Sheriff Johnny France has got his men. Don Nichols and his son, Dan, the mountain men of Montana wanted in connection with a murder and kidnapping, have been arrested.

They are accused of kidnapping and wounding Miss Kari Swenson, aged 23, a member of the United States biathlon team, and the murder of Mr Alan Goldstein, aged 36.

Mr Goldstein stumbled on the Nicholses' camp the day after Miss Swenson disappeared while out running. Don Nichols is said to have told the girl she was going into the mountains to be his son's wife.

When Mr Goldstein found them he was killed by a rifle shot allegedly fired by Don Nichols. Miss Swenson was freed from her chains and the Nicholses fled. Found four hours later by Sheriff France, she is still recovering and suffering nightmares.

Sheriff France has been hunting Don, aged 53, and Dan, aged 20, since the incident in July, painstakingly crossing thousands of square miles of forest and mountain.

When the fugitives were spotted by a rancher cooking supper round a camp fire in the snow-covered Beartrap Canyon, in the Madison Mountain range on Thursday, the sheriff went in to get them, alone.

Disguised as a hunter, he walked to the fire and asked "How's the coyote hunting?" Don Nicholas reached for a rifle – but the Sheriff was too quick for him.

He marched the two men at gunpoint to a waiting helicopter, and they are now in jail awaiting trial. It was the sheriff's biggest case, and he is delighted and relieved to have got his men.

Americans and Russians both accused by Botha

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Relations between South Africa and the two Western countries most sympathetic towards the Pretoria Government, the United States and Britain, are the coolest since President Reagan and Mrs Thatcher came to office. Both Washington and London, however, say there has been no fundamental change in their attitude.

Speaking at Stellenbosch University on Thursday night, Mr P W Botha, the South African President, lumped the United States together with the Soviet Union and accused both of "meddling" in Africa for "selfish purposes".

In an apparent reference to a claim by President Reagan that American "quiet diplomacy" had helped to secure the recent release of South African political detainees, Mr Botha declared: "No quiet diplomacy, or loud shouting, will keep us from seeking the road of justice with the retention of ci lized values for our country and its peoples. We ourselves will take these decisions."

In an interview the same night with the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC), Dr Chester Crocker, the American Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, said that "public diplomacy" had never been excluded from Washington's policy towards South Africa. "When we think it appropriate, we are going to turn the volume up," he said.

One reason Washington had decided to state its position more openly, he said, was that American policy had been distorted deliberately by selective quotation and interpretation by the SABC and other "official media" in South Africa; by which he presumably meant the generally pro-Government Afrikaans press.

The end of the three-month sit-in by three anti-apartheid campaigners in the British Consulate in Durban has removed one cause of friction between London and Pretoria. But the immediate arrest of two of them on what look like trumped-up treason charges, and six other members of the United Democratic Front opposition movement, has created new difficulties.

Pretoria's retaliatory decision in September to renege on a pledge to rreturn to Britain four South Africans for trial on arms smuggling charges has also left a sour taste, deepening each side's historic distrust of the other's motives.

On the night that Pretoria announced this action, Mr Botha claimed that Britains refusal to hand over the consulate squatters to the police had violated South Africas "suzerainity".

None the less, the South African Government is confident that, while it may have to weather more hostile rhetoric, London and Washington will continue to rally to its defence when the chips are down.

Correspondent held after mail blunder

Windhoek (AP) – The BBC correspondent for Namibia, Miss Gwen Lister, was arrested yesterday after she disclosed that the South African police has ordered postal officials to intercept her mail.

Miss Lister, aged 31, a South African, said on Thursday that a secret notice from the South African CID to the Postmaster-General of Namibia ordering the mail check had been delivered to her home in error.



This is your life: Frank Sinatra and his youngest daughter, Tina, announcing on Wednesday that Tina will produce a six hour mini-series with Warner Bros on her father's life, for CBS Television.

Madrid police head off shipyard march

From Richard Wigg
Madrid

Angry shipyard workers shouting anti-Government slogans because they had been made redundant were stopped by police here yesterday as they tried to march on Spain's ruling Socialist Party conference.

In a tense atmosphere, heavily armed police forced the vanguard of the 4,000 workers into a side street after officials at the Industry Ministry had refused to receive a delegation. The ministry is on the Castellana, only a few hundred yards from the conference.

The demonstration was by Communist, Basque and Galician trade unions. The workers, who had travelled in buses and trains to Madrid, carried banners declaring. "Not a single job must go", and shouted insults at Señr Carlos Solchaga, the Industry Minister, who is putting through a programme to restructure the shipyard.

This programme includes a three-year retraining period to be offered to some 13,400 workers declared redundant at almost full pay. The Government says this will cost 126,000 million (£610 million).

The demonstration highlights the Government's labour problem. At the conference yesterday, Senor Felipe González, the Prime Minister, countered criticism of his economic policies by saying: "I have yet to see an alternative programme for tackling the situation. Our margin for manoeuvre is very limited."

But the conference has already given 95 per cent vote of approval to the outgoing executive's stewardship over the past three years.

It has yet to vote on specific issues, such as Spain's membership of Nato. A ballot yesterday in the foreign policy committee ensured that the Nato issue must come before the full conference, which ends tomorrow, since the left-wingers who want Spain's withdrawal obtained more than 25 per cent backing from delegates.

US envoy named as rebels' link man in Vietnam plot trial

Ho Chi Minh City (AP) – Under the glare of television lights, the Vietnamese Government yesterday began the trail of 21 men, some of them former officers in the South Vietnamese military, who are accused of plotting to overthrow the Communist regime through espionage, sabotage and armed activities.

The 29-page bill of indictment claimed the accused were backed by Chinese and Thai officals in their five-year effort, and had tried to recruit guerrillas from among Vietnamese refugees in Thai-Cambodia border camps.

It alleged they had clandestine dealings with five Americans at the US Embassy in Bangkok, and identified one diplomat, Donald B. Coleman, a second secretary.

The trial, which is expected to last four to five days, is the largest staged publicly by the Communist Goverment. Evidently seeking widespread publicity, officials invited more than 20 foreign journalists to the opening session.

The group is alleged to have planned disruptive terror attacks on targets in Ho Chi Minh City, including foreigners, hotels, the airport, a petroleum storage area, and key bridges.

In addition, the group allegedly planned to sink Soviet ships and block the river channel to Saigon, disrupt the economy by dumping counterfeit currency in the country, raid prisons to get reinforcements for its guerrilla army, and bribe Government cadres and police officials.

The Government claims the group planned to murder or kidnap French and Soviet consular officials to create "a strong impact on world opinion".

One of the accused, Mai Van Hanh, a former South Vietnamese air force officer living in exile in France, was said to have made seven trips from Bangkok to Peking on Chinese aircraft to confer with other plotters and was responsible for shipping large amounts of arms and other equipment to agents infiltrated into Vietnam.

Another accused, Tran Van Ba, had allegedly told interrogators that "American imperialism" had been in touch with Hanh and with a Thailand-based operative. Le Quoc Tuy.

LeQuoc Tuy was not listed as present in court, and it could not be determined whether the name was an alias for one of the accused, or whether he is alive or dead.

The charges named a senior Thai general named Chavalit, identified as Chief of Staff of Thai Land forces, responsible for Intelligence operations, as having been "directly involved in all actions undertaken in Thailand" by Tuy and Hanh.

● PEKING: China said yesterday that it was "not worth commenting" on the Vietnamese claim of Chinese involvement in the alleged plot (AP reports).

Ban on Pretoria's arms sales backed by UK

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

South Africa was the target of a two-pronged censure as the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council adopted measures intended to press Pretoria into abandoning its policy of apartheid.

Britain and the United States joined the consensus in the Security Council, which approved a non-mandatory resolution calling for a ban on arms imports from South Africa although both opposed sweeping economic sanctions in a measure condemning the South Africans.

A mandatory embargo prohibiting arms shipments to South Africa has been in effect since 1977, but this was the first time that the Council had requested countries not to buy arms from Pretoria. In the assembly, Britain and the US said that economic sanctions would be counter-productive

Britain also strongly protested against a report by the UN special committee against apartheid which accused the British Government of helping to perpetuate South Africa's apartheid system. The report was described by Mr Oliver Miles, the British representative, as inaccurate, slanted and tendentious.

Hint of trial for deposed President

Dakar, Senegal (AP) – Ex-president Muhammad Kouna Ould Haidalla, the former Mauritanian President who was overthrown in a coup three days ago, is being held in a military barracks in the capital, Nouakchott, the state radio said in a broadcast monitored here.

Mr Haidalla returned to the capital on Thursday afternoon by plane after attending a French-African summit in Bujumbura, Burundi. While he was there a military committee headed by Mr Moauya Ould Sidi-Ahmad Iaya, a former Prime Minister too power.

The new regime has given no indication what will happen to Mr Haidalla, who had ruled Mauritania since 1980. He has been accused of leading a "regime of waste and corruption," in which he used the nation's policies "to serve his personal interests."

A broadcast said "bad managemenmt and blocking of the wheels of state" had caused serious problems for Mauritania. Diplomatic analysts in Dakar said the broadcast of such charges could indicate Mr Haidalla will be put on trial.

The state radio said the country's frontiers and airports were reopened yesterday.

Agence France-Presse reported from Nouakchott that life was normal in the capital yesterday after the curfew had been lifted and borders and airports opened.

43 die in Philippines gun battles

From Keith Dalton
Manila

At least 43 people were killed in three battles between soldiers and communist rebels in the Philippines, while unidentified gunmen shot dead two troopers on night patrol near the military headquarters at Zamboanga on Mindanao Island.

The worst of the clashes on Wednesday was on Samar island, where 27 rebels of the New People's Army (NPA) were killed in a battle which also left five government soldiers injured.

On Mindanao, NPA rebels firing from both sides of a mountain road ambushed a lorry, killing 12 soldiers and wounding 14 others,

The gunbattle lasted two hours until troop refinement caused the rebels to withdraw, taking their dead with them. Unconfirmed reports said 12 rebels died.

The two soldiers killed were gunned down on Thursday night by unknown men firing automatic weapons, the state-run Philippine News Agency (PNA) said.

In the first 10 months of this year, clashes between troops and rebels have killed 2,650 people, including 800 soldiers. Military officials also report that 895 NPA men had died.

The upsurge in rebel attacks, often by 200-strong bands of heavily armed men, is causing increasing concern to President Marcos, who was ordered a "no compromise" crackdown.

Pyongyang agrees on talks date with Seoul

From David Watts, Tokyo

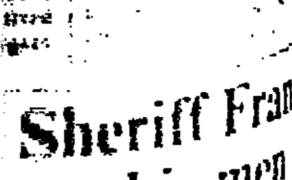
The on-off economic negotiations between North and South Korea are on again.

Moving from the hard line it adopted after a border shooting incident last month, Pyongyang has now agreed that the second round of economic negotiations should be held on January 17.

The earlier date had been December 5 but the North called the talks off after the incident in which one South Korean, three North Korean soldiers and one American soldier were injured when a young trainee Soviet diplomat defected.

Pyongyang said then it was impossible to hold the talks in the atmosphere of "heightened tension" caused by the ensuing gun battle in which North Korean guards ran though the international no-man's land exchanging shots with South Korean and American troops.

News of North Korea's intention to return to negotiations in the border village of Panmunjom came in a broadcast on Pyongyang radio



SPORTING DIARY

Simon Barnes

Not out – of print

You cannot be considered a serious cricket lunatic these days unless you have a bookcase given over to a complete set of *Wisden* from the first edition in 1864. Assembling such a collection, however, is neither easy nor cheap. The fashion can be traced back to Tim Rice who paid £700 for a full set in the early 1970s. Now you would expect to pay £12,000, or £200 for a single pre-1r90 volume in decent condition. Now David Jenkins, a geography teacher has started to print facsimile editions of the rarer *Wisdens*. He started with 1885 (£20) followed with 1884 (£22) and at Easter will issue 1886. He plans to publish all the volumes from 1879 to 1890. His first venture was a case of accidental piracy. He was erroneously informed that *Wisden* moved out of copyright 50 years after the editor's death. Not so: *Wisden*, like time, is an ever-rolling stream, and never goes out of copyright. But they at *Wisden*, are scholars and gentlemen and gave permission for Jenkins to carry on.

And so to Bev

One of the minor pleasures of the university rugby match is the presence of magnificently quadruple-initialled players in the team lists. This week, we had R. H. Q. B. Moon of Cambridge and, according to the news agencies and sponsor's handouts, J. S. O. B. Risman. These are not his true initials. It is a rugby joke. S.O.B. stands for Son of Bev: poor Risman is never mentioned in a rugby context without it being pointed out that he is the son of Bev Risman, England and British Lions stand-off in the late 1950s and early '60s and a defector to Rugby League. Bev himself is the Son of Gus, a notable League player. Risman appeared properly as J. M. in the match programme.

Clean sweep

Robert Maxwell, chairman of Oxford United (also something to do with newspapers) was distressed that the Football League gave out only 12 medals to players after Oxford won the third division championship last season. So he has struck his own medals, and handed them out to every one associated with the achievement. Jim Smith, the manager, has got one. So has 74-year-old Bill Palmer, who sweeps the terraces, and so has laundress Doreen Baker.

Forward looking

Pelé, fed up with being an over-the-hill footballer, plans to fill the idle hours by becoming president of Brazil. Quite seriously. The backers of the former football master, who is now 44, say: "If he could do for Brazil what he could do with the ball, the country might get somewhere". But, sad to say, opinion polls do not demonstrate the same faith in Pelé's omnifariousness. Only 26 per cent said they would support him; 69 per cent said they would not.

● **The Japanese are adopting *human wave tactics for the Open* golf championship next summer. They are sending 50 reporters and photographers, and *more than 100* radio and television people.**

Sits vac

The troubles of Ibadan Shooting Stars, the splendid Nigerian football team, continue. It was they who were bombarded with itching powder by a hostile crowd during their African Champions Cup semi-final. Last Saturday they played the second leg of the final, against Zamalek of Egypt. They lost 1-0 at home, 3-0 on aggregate. The response was swift and ruthless. Every player and official has been dismissed, with the approval of Colonel Oladyo Popoola, military governor of Western Oyo State.

Scilly season

I have some shocking news about the state of football in the Scilly Isles. For the first time in the history of Scillonian football, a player has been disciplined by the Cornish Football Association. Hang your head, Duncan Graham, you who were booked for dissent and fined £5. Scillonian football does not run on usual lines. For a start, there is only one club, on St Mary's. The club has two teams, Woolpack Wanderers and Garrison Gunners. They play in a rather small league. Gunners lead, undefeated after six games. Very, very occasionally, Scillonians play outsiders. During the autumn migrations, they played two matches against a team of birdwatchers, drawing one and winning the other.

BARRY FANTONI

'After you with the Top Ten'

Warnock: ethics undermined

by Immanuel Jakobovits

Chief Rabbi of Great Britain

Tampering with the innermost mysteries of nature, the building of life itself, may prove of no lesser consequence for the future of the human race than the early, purely scientific *experiments* which split the atom – resulting, within a few decades, in the most universal threat to human survival in the annals of man.

The Warnock Report on human fertilization is a notable document. In a world widely condemned for its moral indifference and turpitude, it is a refreshing demonstration of the high priority still accorded to moral values in *public life. But while* approving the general theme and endorsing many of its recommendations, I would be critical of some fundamental shortcomings:

It no longer appears a matter of urgent *public policy to safeguard the most* essential unit of the social fabric, the family. By expressly dissociating the definition of a "couple" from a legal husband-wife relationship and by legalizing the false entry of AID *and IVF children* as born to parents who are in fact infertile, the report turns marriage into an acceptable casualty of technological progress.

Another cardinal imperative missing in the report is an overriding insistence on the interests of the child. It is an indefensible violation of rights which should be deemed inalienable to engage in such practices as, for example, the deliberate creation of orphans (by freezing semen, eggs or embryos for possible use after the donor's death); the permanent deception of children about their paternity (by AID and the fraudulent entry of the mother's barren husband as the father); or conceiving children by one *mother to be borne* by another (as a "surrogate"), with the prospect that both may one day lay conflicting claims to the child.

The report is also flawed by its frequent recourse to arbitrary lines of demarcation between what is to be morally acceptable and criminally culpable. Conflicting views *on moral principles cannot* be *resolved* by compromise or by splitting the difference at some random point. Thus, experimentation on embryos is morally either *totally* inadmissable, or else it is acceptable for reasons other than being within the 14-day time limit. Mere numbers can never establish or define moral norms.

Professional, parliamentary and public opinion has evidently reserved its most vehement opposition to the recommendations approving experiments on *in vitro* embryos under certain conditions. Of far *graver consequence* are the *recommendations* which would legalize and encourage disregard for the sanctity of marriage as the sole legitimate agency for the procreation of human life, and which would seriously violate every child's inalienable rights – as well as the maximum prospect of being raised as a normal, responsible and constructive member of society.

One of the most objectionable statements in the report, because it is of the gravest and most widespread consequence, is the considered refusal to limit access to treatment for infertility to legally married couples. It would constitute an intolerable affront to the most precious element of the Judaeo-Christian heritage, and would cause incalculable harm to children deliberately conceived under *such* circumstances.

Equally abhorrent is the recommendation to legalize the "fiction" permitting the infertile husband of a wife *inseminated by a* donor to be falsely registered as the child's father and for a similar falsification of the child's natural origin to be made legal in respect of women carrying donated eggs or donated embryos. Such fraudulent registration would throw doubt on the veracity of all birth certificates and thus on the true *paternity of all children, since it* would *never* be known for certain whether a declaration of birth is really truthful or not.

The time to warn against undue haste in the blind pursuit of scientific and technological progress is now. Already it is estimated that we double the sum total of our scientific knowledge every eight years, acquiring as much new *knowledge* every eight years as mankind has accumulated over all the millennia of human inquiry and discovery in the past. Scientific ingenuity requires an occasional rest for reflection on where we are and where we *are* likely to be heading.

In the Jewish scale of values every innocent human life is of infinite worth. Infinity cannot be multiplied. Hence, one human being is worth no more and no less than a million others, and we are never justified in sacrificing a single life on the altar of science, even with the prospect that we might thereby save millions in the future.

A further danger looms, and calls for the utmost vigilance. Human life, generated from test-tubes and petri dishes, *sustained* by artificial foods and drugs, and terminated by unplugging some life-support machine, may be reduced to a form of mechanization in which the incomparable grandeur of the *human spirit, the genius of the human* mind and the noblest virtues of the human heart are asphyxiated in the exhaust fumes of our technological wonders.

For the proper checks and balances to be devised and operated, more than *parliamentary* legislation is required, indispensable as this is. Far greater emphasis is needed in raising scientists, doctors and technicians who will be as ethically sensitive as they are professionally competent, and cultivating moral conscience as a factor in the formation of public opinion at least as *potent as material ambitions*, ideological commitments and political propaganda.

Bryan Appleyard on the new tensions in the **annual battle for Arts Council funding**

Why the Glory of the Garden has lost its bloom

It is the season of frenzied leakage and impassioned lobbying. Every year at about this time, the arts are seized by an unhealthy fervour. Primarily this is due to the announcement – this year, next Monday – of the total sum available to the Arts Council from the Government. This time the best that can be hoped for is a 6-7 per cent increase on last year's £96m, but about 4 per cent is more likely.

Before the announcement *it* is customary for a certain number of arts organizations to scream in agony and hurl accusations of duplicity and insensitivity at the Arts Council. This year it has been the turn of *Sir Peter Hall's National* Theatre and the Manchester Royal Exchange. The Royal Shakespeare *Company*, normally at the front of the queue, and which in the past has attempted quarterly howls of anguish, has been silenced by a one-off grant last year arising from Clive Priestley's favourable report on its operations.

Behind this ritual lies the 40-year-old Arts Council practice of maintaining a balance of terror among its clients. Politely known as deficit-funding, it basically means that the council guarantees them against losses. Its effect is to preserve most companies in a condition of financial stringency and to make annual, cut-throat horse-trading essential. But now the prevailing ideology, emanating from the office of the chairman, Sir William Rees-Mogg, is all about grants – companies can then keep their profits and must live with their losses.

This may seem like an accounting nuance but it is now the focus of the entire strategy for overhauling the council and, ensuring its survival. For a grant system implies a different role for the inhabitants of 105 Piccadilly. It suggests they should simply fund rather than service the arts. Deficit-financing implies a system of strings tying the companies to Number 105 for their day-to-day running. Grants imply a distinctly hands-off role.

This is the point at which the grant strategy coincides with the policy outlined by Sir William a year *ago in the now-notorious The Glory of the Garden.* This document outlined a policy of devolution to *the regions, correcting the bias of* arts funding to London. It offered partnership deals with local authorities and proposed sweeping changes – like moving one of the four London orchestras to Notting*ham. It proved convincing enough* to win from the Government the administration of arts funds freed *from the metropolitan authorities* after their abolition and of the South Bank arts centre from the Greater *London Council.*

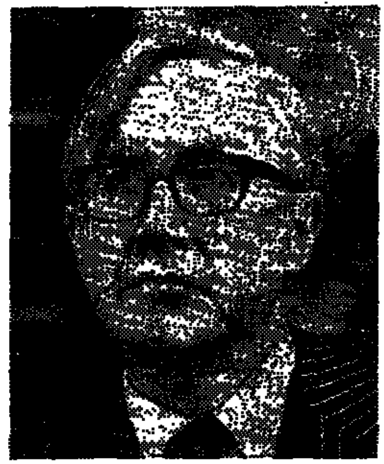
Combining the grant strategy with the devolution proposals suggests a change and diminution in the role of the head office. Regional arts associations will take up more of the management strain, leaving the Arts Council with the rather more ethereal role of national strategy and playing landlord to the South Bank.

For Lord Gowrie, the Arts Minister, this all makes perfect sense. It offers the kind of radical, populist right-wing approach that might be expected of him and escapes from the old arts battles between generous Labour and mean Tories. Unfortunately it may not be working.



The Royal Festival Hall: bookings for 1986-87 still being taken by the doomed GLC despite an attempted Arts Council take-over. Below: Lord Gowrie and Sir William Rees-Mogg: after early successes their hopes for radical changes look like foundering





For a start *The Glory of the Garden* has proved appallingly deficient in the quality of its detail. Shifting a London orchestra is now almost certainly impossible: the reasons are complex, but basically the council does not have the power. Meanwhile the local authority partnership plans have unleashed a series of demands which the council has not the funds to meet. Nothing like the £6m shift from London to the regions can now happen, although it is clear that three regional theatres – not the Royal Exchange – will benefit.

Even on the South Bank there have been embarrassing problems. An attempt by the council to take over bookings for the Royal Festival Hall for the 1986-87 season has foundered: bookings are still being taken by a regime which, by then, should not exist.

But perhaps most significant of all *is that the major battle has not yet* even begun – the one between the Rees-Mogg faction at the Arts *Council and those still clinging to* the past. For it is clear that, although the most senior level at Piccadilly is *moving more or less in unison,* lower down there are problems. Most obviously there is the question of staffing. One Basil Denning – another in the astonishingly long list of outside consultants the council uses to review its work – is currently charged with reviewing management procedures at head office. Given the devolution/grants policy this can only mean cuts, possibly savage. New jobs may crop up in the regions. But the metropolitan bias of the arts is not simply financial, it is cultural. Moving out to the sticks is not the ambition of most London-based administrators.

Any such proposals will run into deeply entrenched opposition which will mobilize all the old rhetorical formulae political interference in the arts, freedom of expression and so on.

Sir William's task is to persuade enough people, rightly or wrongly, *that his is the only way ahead.* A bloody battle fought in defence of the old regime at 105 would wreck *anything he may achieve in the way* of convincing the Government that the Arts Council is a viable institution.

So far the progress in terms of *public relations has been poor. The Glory of the Garden* strategy has been bogged down and clients are *mistrustful. In this context* Sir William's words in the latest annual report are significant: "It took about 25 years to bring London to its present position as probably the greatest arts capital in the world, and it will almost certainly take another generation to complete an adequate programme for the rest of Britain." *In other words:* this is all proving very tricky.

But the strategy is far from lost. Lord Gowrie has clearly signalled faith in the council with the gift of the local authority money and the management of the South Bank. In return he will want to see the kind of radical innovation which will separate him from the long line of arts ministers who have simply moaned about lack of money. A year ago the whole operation may have seemed on the brink of success; now it must be staring failure in the face. Meanwhile the screams of agony will be a seasonal feature for some time to come.

How Austen came to Texas, and all points north

New York

After years of gentle persuasion, America's literary sensibilities have finally awakened to Jane Austen. Tomorrow "Janeites" throughout the United States and Canada will gather to celebrate the 209th anniversary of her birth. An estimated 1,600 Janeites comprise the Jane Austen Society of North America, which has more than 20 chapters from Florida to Alaska, and does a remarkably brisk business in Austen sweatshirts, bumper stickers and hold-alls.

"It's like coming out of the closet," confided a New York Janeite, writer and real estate expert Edith Lank. In fact, so many closet doors have opened that the *Wall Street Journal* has dubbed the Austen devotees "cultists", and sales of her six novels have surged upwards as the Anglophile fascination prospers.

"Just as everyone can tell you when *they lost their virginity*, everyone in the society can tell you where they read their first Jane Austen, when it was, who gave it to them, and what the weather was like. I guess it's a moment you never forget," Said Mrs Lank.

More than three million copies of Austen's novels are now in print, and publishers say she is one of their top-selling female writers. Bantam Books, which began publishing Austen's works only three years ago, has already sold well over 500,000 copies and is proposing the ultimate in modern acceptance – putting her works in airport bookshops, long prejudiced in favour of glossy trash.

Lu-Ann Walther, a senior editor at Bantam, said: "There is a hunger *in this country* for good books, and as modern life becomes more and more complicated, women *especially* are turning to Jane Austen. It is an escape into orderliness, plus her sharpness of satire and beautiful tranquilising prose. You could equate it to listening to Mozart".

Certainly, the Austen appeal is no longer confined to the corridors of academia. According to Lu-Ann Walther, readers now include many housewives, who may regard her works as the epitome of upper-crust romance. Austen's preoccupation with love, marriage, snobbery and seduction is just the stuff that *Dynasty* is made of, but the Janeites quail at the soap connection. "I have never watched a soap in my life", said Edith Lank. "But I would say the difference, aside from the style and wit of Austen's writing, is that every character is entirely true".



Austen: even in feminist favour

Curiously, despite Austen's ostensible anti-feminist outlook – in *Northanger Abbey*, for instance, she advises: "A woman, especially, if she has the misfortune of knowing any thing, should conceal it as well as she can" – the wrath of the women's movement has been stayed. Lu-Ann Walther submits that women, far from being outraged by Austen's principles, are actually relieved to withdraw into her structured world where male and female roles are so clearly defined. "There is a solace and a perfection in her books that is *frequently missing from our lives*", she says.

But the Janeites' annual meetings are not always occasions of peace and learning in a cultural desert. "They can become quite violent at times", admitted Edith Lank. "One year, when a speaker said that Mary Crawford *(Mansfield Park)* was the most evil woman in English literature since Lady Macbeth, a man leapt up shouting: 'I have been in love with Mary Crawford these last 20 years, and I urge you to move on to the next topic'."

Heated discussions may mark the Austen anniversary parties on Sunday, but their success is assured. As playwright Joan Austen Leigh, Jane Austen's *great-great-grand*-neice, explained: "You only have to say 'Which is your favourite character?' and you're off".

Sue Mott

Anthony Quinton

Restoring mind over patter

The Reith lectures began 36 years ago with Bertrand Russell's series *Authority and the Individual*. The idea was that some "acknowleged authority" in a subject should be "invited to undertake some study or original research" on it and "give listeners the results". Russell's, as might have been expected, were elegantly constructed in a flow of forceful and sub-epigramatic sentences. They were also a bit platitudinous.

Later series have been more stimulating, even provocative. At any rate, the lectures have survived. Their appearance in *The Listener* tends to elicit batches of longish letters and in this respect the recently completed Reith lectures of Professor John Searle, of the University of California at Berkeley, are no exception.

His subject was *Minds, Brains and Science* and, in the simplest possible terms, his position is that neither the aggressively materialistic view of some who practise or admire the new sciences of artificial intelligence and cognitive psychology *nor* any kind of dualism which seeks to disconnect the mind from physical nature as being something of an utterly different sort is correct.

The mental – the realm of *conciousness, meaning, subjectivity* – is a part of the physical world: more precisely, it is a feature of a *special part of the physical* world, namely the brain. Mind is related to the brain, he says, as the solidity of *some chunk of stuff is related to the* structure of its submicroscopic constituents. Vitalism, the idea that living matter *must contain some* distinguishing non-physical ingredient because it behaves so differently from the *main mass of non-living* matter, has simply faded away as we have come to learn more of the *detail of how living matter works. It* is time, he suggests, to take the same attitude to mind.

So he has no comfort to offer to supernaturalism, that idea of the priority of mind to nature which has always been taken to be essential to a religious conception of the world. On the other hand he is insistent that the mind is not a machine, not even the most sophisticated sort of electronic machine. There are two main sides to this negative claim. The first is that there is only a kind of metaphorical connection between human thinking and the thinking of computers. The second is that because of the way the mental and social aspects of human life are saturated with intentionality, the meaningful use of language and the framing of purposes generally, they can never be explained in terms of *neurophysiology*; the commonsense accounts we give of what we and other people mean or are up to must always *take precedence*.

His Chinese room comes in to establish the first of these points. What it amounts to is that a machine, an artificial intelligence, can transform symbols fed into it into other symbols – indeed it can do so with superhuman *rapidity* and accuracy – but that does not amount to understanding those symbols. Searle first studied philosophy as a Rhodes scholar at Oxford and has ever since revealed the influence of the late J. L. Austin, the most brilliant and authoritative of Oxford's linguistic philosophers in the first 15 post-war years. Austin once observed that a man stuck with *nothing to read* but an Arabic dictionary might learn exactly which Arabic words and phrases were synonyms of one another, *and* so be able to carry out eleborate paraphrases of Arabic texts, without having the slightest idea of what any of the linguistic items he was dealing with meant. Searle's Chinese room is simply a version of that story.

No doubt some champions of artificial intelligence have made overweening claims about the mechanisability of mind. The thinking that machines can now do is not what we call thinkingat all; it is just deductive symbol-transformation, which is *only a fragment of* our thinking processes. Others realize much more is involved in *human thinking*: the ability to apply words to perceived states of affairs, the use of words for purposes other than the automatic recording of some feature of the environment. To say that the mind is a machine is to say that *machines* can do a very large range of things and it is by no means certain that they can do the *requisite* ones. But *the fact* that symbol-transformation by itself is not thinking does not prove Searle's point unless *he can show that* symbol-transforming is all that any machine can do.

Searle's *style of presentation* is American in an attractive way. He is open and fearless: he makes definite statements in everyday language and his claims are bold and unhedged. Another Austinian characteristic is his devotion to the concrete and familiar. But they are very different thinkers. Austin used the distinction-making skills of an old-fashioned classical scholar to puncture great balloons of abstract philosophical theory. Searle's intellectual surroundings are of a quite different kind, one of the world's largest concentrations of productive scientists and in a country where scientists are altogether less walled up in their specialisms than here. It was a risky enterprise to take on so much in six half-hour lectures but his concern with what is going on at the sharp edge of scientific progress endowed its in many ways traditional main topic – the place of mind in nature – with force.

Lord Quinton is President of Trinity College, Oxford.

Woodrow Wyatt

No surrender to the Tory rebels

Mr Pym gave life to the theory that it is dangerous for a government to have too large a majority. This government's present difficulties with its backbenchers are often ascribed to *having too many of* them. The theory is shaky.

Mr Attlee had a majority in 1945 over the *Conservatives of 180*, which compares with today's Conservative majority over Labour of *185*. He had no difficulty in containing rebellions. Mr Attlee's troubles began when his majority dropped to 17 over the Conservatives, and five overall, in 1950. The Bevanite split made him feel insecure and was a trigger for the election in October 1951. The following 13 years of Tory rule were conducted with small and large majorities without Tory backbenchers becoming a nuisance.

When Mr Wilson won in 1964 with an overall majority of four he did not escape pressure from backbenchers. Desmond Donnelly and I frightened him so badly that we stopped the nationalization of steel for the lifetime of the Parliament, although it was at the forefront of Labour's policy.

With a large majority of 110 over the Conservatives in 1966 Wilson still did not have an altogether easy ride. It was his backbenchers, egged on by party activists and union leaders, who prevented the trade union reform envisaged in the 1969 White Paper *In Place of Strife*. When he announced his surrender it was inevitable that Labour would lose the 1970 election.

There is no particular evidence pointing to the desirability for a government of having a large or small majority. The evidence points more to the danger to a government of faltering before backbenchers manipulated by party activists who claim to be the true repositories of the party's sacred faiths.

Whatever they think, such people do not represent the feelings of ordinary members of a party, or of those who vote for it. Normal people do not ardently engage in politics, preferring to use their leisure for more agreeable *pursuits. It is mainly* cranks who are vocal in constituency parties and who interpret the opinion of their supporters as being that of their own.

The recent fuss over student grants is illustrative. Conservative MPs got threatening letters, telephone calls and visits from their principal supporters, many of whom are generous with cash for party funds. It was a blatant exercise in maintaining unnecessarily large free gifts to the better off. Most of the rest of the country thought Sir Keith Joseph was acting wisely and fairly. Many Tory MPs, especially the new ones, *however, were unnerved* by the ferocious onslaught from those they thought, probably wrongly, influential in their constituencies.

I thought the Government mistaken to budge and that Sir Keith had more political sense in wide electoral terms than the protesters. *The Government muddled minority* special interest opinion with popular opinion. It is a precedent that it *should be careful not to follow.*

Doctors are enraged because Mr Fowler, Social Services Secretary, is trying to save substantial sums by preventing prescription of proprietary drugs in cases where the generic equivalent is far cheaper and just as efficacious. The doctors are the victims of pressure from the drug companies, which are not above providing them with pleasant perks.

Inexperienced MPs confuse the doctors' indignation with a desire for the best treatment, irrespective of cost, and with public opinion which doctors are believed to influence. Fowler and the Government would be foolish to take any notice. There are large savings to be made by generic prescribing. This government must keep public economy as its lodestar, or it will not be able to achieve much of its ambition to raise tax thresholds, which would give greater incentive and relief to the less well-off.

Conservative backbenchers should bravely tell their natural and more prominent supporters that they have already done well. Before Mrs Thatcher the top rate of income tax was 83 per cent plus 15 per cent surcharge on investment income, bringing a total top imposition of 98 per cent. Now the top rate is 60 per cent and there is no investment surcharge.

Welfare state expenditure includes such items as tax relief for the 13 million pension funds and for mortgages. The cost for other taxpayers of tax relief to the 7 million mortgaged property owners (with their families, well under half the population) is £3,500m a year. The cost of tax relief to those in pension funds is around £3,000m.

Danegeld has already been paid to Tory backbenchers over student *grants*. The Government must remember that whatever the size of its majority it should do what it thinks is right, and can prevail if it has the will for it. Once it begins to look as though it is afraid of its activist backbenchers it will be doomed at the next election.

What is required is a firm and persuasive Chief Whip, armed with advance information of policies which *may cause initial disquiet*, to soothe and bully the backbenchers. Even with a large majority the *discontents out of office are never* numerous enough to outweigh ministers, private secretaries and those who still hope for office, and an opposition rarely supports a government's militant activists.

TIMES PAST THE TIMES
P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

MR FOWLER'S BIKE

"The very unequal price of labour which we frequently find in England in places at no great distance from one another is probably owing to the obstruction which the law gives to the poor man who would carry his industry from one parish to another without a certificate."

That was Adam Smith. In the midst of his industrial revolution he judged the way the operation of the poor law prevented the mobility of labour to be economic folly; it was, besides, an "evident violation of natural liberty". And in the midst of what should be our post-industrial revolution, how do our poor laws assist economic transformation? There is before Parliament a measure that recapitulates the Act of Settlement against which Smith railed. It is advanced by Mr Fowler in all sincerity as a means of reining in his social securiy budget. But in its essence it is a measure suited to a sclerotic nation, a measure to freeze jobs and people. Let Smith's sentiments be our guide in judging it.

Ever since Mr Tebbit made his celebrated remark about labour mobility, based understandably enough on the historical model of the migration in the 1930s to the new industries of the Midlands and South East, the government has equivocated. Had it wanted to undam a flow of labour to the pastures around the new industries and services of the 1980s, it would have to force a collective will through the Whitehall innards. That has not happened.

Policies on, for example, housing, job training, rate grants just do not mesh. Take town and country planning. Ever since Mr Heseltine's energetic presence was missed at the Department of the Environment there has been (notably from Mr Patrick Jenkin, MP for green belt Woodford) precious little action for development of housing in the favoured areas. And now there comes a proposal from the Department of Health and Social Security that may have a stultifying effect on such small trickle of internal migration as there is. Mr Fowler seeks to discourage the young jobless from moving. Let them be poor and available for work in Merseyside or Strathclyde; the rules are to be changed to prevent them being poor and available for work in Berkshire or Grampian.

There are abuses in the way social security provides for those who move from their habitual place of residence: abuses by the poor, by non-poor cheats and abuses by rack-renting landladies and hoteliers, and not just in Torquay. Certainly the board and lodging payments made to cover the extra costs of living away from a permanent domicile are expensive and have been mounting. But so, too, has joblessness. Mr Fowler, sensibly, proposes to cap the board and lodging payments. But he also proposes severe restrictions on the eligibility of 16 and 17 year-olds outside their home parish. And for all the mobile poor a clock is set ticking. No lodging payments at all are to be made after 28 days of job search.

This is not 1662; the Act of Settlement is gone. Mr Fowler proposes no compulsory transfers, no repatriation of itinerant Scots (though local DHSS offices will undoubtedly consider requests for assistance with train fares back to Glasgow and Liverpool); nor is the government to cut the mobile poor off without a penny when their 28 days are up. They are to get the lowest rate of benefit: the rate, that is, which will barely cover accommodation in a flop-house.

Mr Fowler has promised to safeguard the position of the genuine job seeker. But are his measures (which are administratively complex) stricly necessary? Abuse can be contained by more effective policing of the system. Caps on lodging expenses would move people into lower-cost accommodation. John Howlett, a contemporary of Adam Smith, marvelled at how, despite the poor laws, the young changed their residence. "Were it otherwise, how has it happened that Sheffield, Birmingham and Manchester have increased, from almost mere villages, to populous towns?" Mr Fowler should pause, perhaps defer his proposals on board and lodging until his social security review is published in the New Year. He had promised that the effects of the system on employment will be a primary concern of his reforms. Let him meanwhile ponder Howlett's remark. In this era the inhabitants of Sheffield and Manchester may themselves be required to venture forth, to work and build elsewhere. Our poor laws must not stop them.

OPEN THE BUDGET BOX

Many a thrusting young manager or fast-track public servant has had his hopes dashed by the Chancellor's assurance that the Budget will not penalise those who wait to retire until after the end of this financial year. For a time it seemed that Mr Nigel Lawson had devised the perfect policy for the youthful regeneration of Britain's industry and public service, by allowing rumours to circulate about the taxation of pension "lump sums" which were stimulating a top people's scramble for early retirement.

Faced with the threat of a mass exodus from the heights of Britain's private and public sectors, however, Mr Lawson has capitulated. The Prime Minister, too, has joined in the reassurance business: it seems that mortgage tax relief, like the National Health Service, is safe with Mrs Thatcher. And we know more clearly than ever that she is determined to raise income tax thresholds.

Apart from all those heirs apparent to Britain's boardroom seats, the prime losers from this lifting of the first veil of Budget secrecy are in the City, where smart financial salesmen have always made good business out of pre-Budget rumours. But the real question is what the Treasury has lost, and what it would now lose or gain from taking off a few more layers.

For Treasury ministers' classic defence of Budget secrecy has always been that prior information would enable individuals to arrange their affairs so as to deprive the Government of revenue. Now they seem to be realising that it is lack of information that may cause people to act in undesirable ways. Of course, what all those nervous pensioners-to-be should have realised was that the Chancellor did not have a dog's chance of getting the immediate taxation of lump sums through today's House of Commons. In expressing himself piously against such quasi-retrospective taxation, Mr Lawson was simply bowing with reasonable grace to the inevitable.

But this reflects a deeper truth, in relation to tax reform: that it is fundamentally unsuited to the tradition of Budget surprises. It is one thing to spring on the public sudden changes in the rates of spending or income taxes; quite another to surprise them with changes in the structure of taxation which affect long-term, even lifetime, decisions. The treatment of savings, including house purchase, are obvious examples.

These kinds of reform need a long lead-time for public digestion of tentative proposals, of the kind now provided by the American Treasury's tax plan. Attempts to fit them into the traditional British Budget box run a double risk. If they are not rumoured abroad before Budget day, an unprepared Parliament may revolt; if they are rumoured in advance, ministers may be trapped into denials that constrain the possibilities of reform. This has now happened on the taxation of child benefit, of mortgage interest, and lump sum pensions. For a radical Chancellor, there has to be a better way to proceed.

TRAMP IN ASPIC

Call in the Ghostbusters: there is a corpse on the run in Devon. The local environmental health authorities are hot on the trail of the late Edward McKenzie, a former tramp who died six weeks ago aged 72. Allegedly with his consent, Mr Robert Lenkiewicz, a friend of the dead man, arranged for him to be embalmed under a process usually reserved for laboratory specimens, and encased in a transparent block of acrylic – "like a paperweight", says Mr Lenkiewicz, who plans eventually to display his friend in his library. But the council, which has statutory powers to take possession of a body if "suitable arrangements" have not been made for its disposal, is treating the affair as a test case and means to take Mr Lenkiewicz (and Mr McKenzie, if he can be traced) to court.

"Suitable in whose eyes?", the judge will have to ask himself. In the eyes of the health inspector, or the next-of-kin, or the man on the Saltash omnibus? Mr McKenzie himself probably has no locus standi, for one ceases to be proprietor of one's own body at the moment of giving up the tenancy of it. Yet common sense suggests that the actual or inferred wish of the deceased should be the decisive factor in the absence of overriding objections. Given that no public health risk is involved (which is apparently not in dispute), should the law intervene to prevent an individual from surrounding himself with old friends in the privacy of his own home if he wishes?

It may be unseemly, but should it be illegal? Other corpses, over which there is far less reason to assume consent, are on public display in many museums, playing their part in arousing an early interest in the past among parties of schoolchildren. The mummified dead are displayed in some parts of Italy. In parts of the world as far apart as Greece, Borneo and Patagonia it is or was the custom to desinter ancestral bones and respectfully clean them from time to time. The physical presence of the dead is something that we are exceptionally uncomfortable with today.

The present case is chiefly distinctive because it concerns a private-sector corpse, which might eventually end up on sale in the Portobello Road, more insistently macabre than the Victorian mourning-rings and hair-bracelets always on sale there, though not greatly different in kind. A corpse still subject to the possibility of being brought and sold, with all the vicissitudes that may go with it, can scarcely be said to have attained the desired condition of being at rest.

The chief English authority on the subject would be in no doubt about the question. Jeremy Bentham, 150 years after his death, is still to be seen at University College, London, which he is erroneously supposed to have founded. That humourless apostle of happiness was much preoccupied with the utilitarian possibilities of the dead, and spent his last days writing a paper called "Auto-Ikon, Or the Uses of the Dead to the Living". It sets out to prove that every man might be his own statue if embalmed, a proposition which has gained little favour either with families or with sculptors. "If a country gentleman have rows of trees leading to his dwelling, the auto-ikon of his family might alternate with the trees; copal varnish would protect the face from the effects of rain, – caotchoc the habiliments", he suggests with a straight face.

Unlike some philosophers, he followed the consequences of his notions through to the end. He willed his body to be dissected for the benefit of medicine, and what remains (only the head, strictly, is mummified) is preserved in a glass case to this day. He is a public cadaver, and a public-sector one, and the college scrupulously protects him from unseemly vicissitudes. Sometimes he emerges to preside with considerable dignity over the deliberations of the college council, where he allows every member a full hearing, and talks less nonsense than any of them.

Acid rain report

From Mr Bryan Cassidy, MEP for Dorset East and Hampshire West (Conservative)

Sir, Though I can normally find myself in complete agreement with Julian Haviland, I am afraid his sources of information let him down in his report on Friday, December 7, "Thatcher defied by Tory MEPs over acid rain directive".

The decision to put out a statement criticising the British Government's position was described in Mr Haviland's report as unanimous. It was not. I, for one, opposed it and I was not alone.

My reasons were, first, that there is no conclusive scientific evidence that emissions from power stations in the United Kingdom cause the acid rain which is alleged to damage German forests.

Second, I and some of my colleagues would perhaps be more sympathetic to the German Government's wish to reduce atmospheric pollution if a speed limit were to be introduced on to German motorways. This they have resolutely refused to do, regarding it as the sacred right of every German motorist to blast along the autobahn at the maximum possible speed.

Britain's record in fighting air pollution is good. UK sulphur-dioxide emissions have fallen by over 30 per cent since 1970 and by 15 per cent since 1980. We share international concern about acid rain, but we are not alone in having reservations about the cost-effectiveness of the EEC proposals for stricter emission standards at large combustion plants such as power stations. Denmark, Greece, Ireland and Italy share the British view.

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN CASSIDY,
Constituency HQ,
The Stables,
White Cliff Gardens,
Blandford,
Dorset.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Boxing promotion and BBC TV

From the Head of Sport, BBC Television

Sir, Your Boxing Correspondent implies in his article printed today (December 13) that television contractual arrangements between the BBC and the boxing promoters Mickey Duff and Mike Barrett prevent the BBC from contracting "boxing contests on the open market outside the Duff/Barrett orbit".

That is not the case. The BBC is under no such restraint or obligation, contractually or otherwise. We are free to televise whatever contests we select and can contract. Notably, for example, over the past year we have televised four contests featuring Barry McGuigan, staged by Eastwood Promotions in Belfast.

In recent years we have certainly televised more Duff/Barrett promotions than all the rest put together, but this has enabled us to feature extensively the developing careers of eventual British world champions like John Conteh, John Stracey, Jim Watt, Alan Minter, Maurice Hope and Charlie Magri.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN MARTIN,
Head of Sport,
BBC Television,
British Broadcasting Corporation,
Kensington House,
Richmond Way, W14.
December 13.

Polytechnic inquiry

From Professor David Smith

Sir, In today's issue of *The Times* (December 14) Lady Cox and others suggest that the proposed Inner London Education Authority inquiry into the recent events at the Polytechnic of North London will not be seen as independent.

Unfortunately there is the problem that an inquiry set up by the Government might likewise be seen to lack true independence, at least by some of those involved in the dispute.

As Leader of the Opposition on the Inner London Education Authority, may I say that I welcome the appointment of Miss Sheila Browne as chairman of the inquiry which is being set up by the authority, and that I have complete faith in her disinterest and impartiality.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SMITH,
Members' Lobby,
The County Hall, SE1.
December 14.

The plight of Bhopal

From Mr M. R. Deere

Sir, Professor Lee's letter (December 12) suggesting "lessons from the plight of Bhopal" implied that developing countries need to build up an infrastructure of health and safety similar to that of Great Britain. The experience of Flixborough and other disasters that have afflicted Britain and the Western world would indicate that such a proposal cannot be the solution.

Having been a Government factory inspector and a safety consultant to many public companies and similar organisations, I question the validity of this hypothesis. This risk will exist until greater attention is given by employers to the potential risks of their operations, and safety is accorded the same status as the duties of company officers to maximize profits.

This is especially pertinent now that it has been reported that the hazards were highlighted in a safety audit over two years ago at the Bhopal plant.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL DEERE,
Horizon,
2 Heather Hills,
Stockton Brook,
Stoke-on-Trent,
Staffordshire.
December 12.

Church polls

From the Right Reverend Dr Oliver Tomkins

Sir, The Director of the Church Society (December 8) likes "simple questions". May I ask him one – "Are you a fundamentalist?"

If he answers "Yes", I reply that the Church of England, on the whole, is not.

If he replies "No", I ask why he is anxious if there is a diversity of interpretations of Scripture.

If he would rather reply "It all depends on what you mean by 'fundamentalist'," that is precisely the kind of answer we are not allowed to give in such polls.

Yours sincerely,
OLIVER TOMKINS,
14 St George's Square,
Worcester.
December 8.

Gilbert Kaplan

From Mr Alan Vaughan Williams

Sir, Sally Brompton's intriguing article on Gilbert Kaplan (December 7) gave the strong impression that he was in Britain to conduct the London Symphony Orchestra in Mahler's *Resurrection* only at the Royal Festival Hall on Sunday.

In fact, his London appearance was his second in the UK; on Saturday he led the same orchestra through the same work at the St David's Hall in Cardiff.

It took some courage on the part of a local council to build an international concert hall in a small capital city. It would now be helpful and timely to recognise its enterprise in enabling us to share this rare musical experience with New York, Tokyo and, of course, London.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN VAUGHAN WILLIAMS,
92 Ninian Road,
Roath Park,
Cardiff.
December 10.

Unemployed youth without benefit

From Mr Ray Hurst

Sir, Lord Young (feature, December 5) and your leader (December 6) both refer to the Beveridge report statement that "for boys and girls there should ideally be no unconditional benefit at all; their enforced abstention from work should be made an occasion of further training". Two points need to be made about the use of this statement to apparently justify possible further restrictions on the right of unemployed young people to claim benefit.

Firstly, the right to receive benefit during a period of unemployment has never been unconditional. It has always been subject to the condition that the claimant at all times is available for and prepared to enter employment. Last year the Government extended this condition to include approved training within the Youth Training Scheme under the terms of the Social Security Act 1975.

Lord Young implies ("there are still very many jobs for young people") that 16 and 17-year-olds may deliberately be refusing to enter jobs or training in preference to receiving supplementary benefit. Government statistics suggest otherwise.

Currently, 318,000 young people are involved in the Youth Training Scheme, all of whom could qualify for supplementary benefit if they so chose. Also, the latest unemployment figures show that there are now over 600,000 unemployed teenagers in the United Kingdom, excluding those in the Youth Training Scheme, while only 9,700 "real job" vacancies are notified at careers offices for young people, over half of which are in the South.

These statistics should therefore, if examined objectively, clearly emphasise that insufficient jobs are available for the present number of unemployed teenagers.

This leads to the second point raised by Lord Young, namely, the offer of good training to young people. Where is this good training for unemployed teenagers outside of the Youth Training Scheme, which concentrates on the needs of the current year's school leavers?

The Government's policy of concentrating training resources for other groups on "known employment needs" will mean that older unemployed teenagers will be deprived of opportunities to undertake speculative training, unless they are fortunate to be engaged in the relatively small Community Programme.

Unemployed young people have already borne a disproportionate burden towards achieving what the Government considers to be the necessary economic conditions to create growth in jobs. Until the results of this policy are clearly seen to be working, i.e., by the provision of sufficient jobs to enable school leavers to enter work suitable to their abilities, it would be socially discriminatory, considering recent policy decisions affecting other groups of young people, to reduce still further, or abolish altogether, benefits for unemployed teenagers.

Many of the young unemployed come from households where unemployment is a perpetual problem and where there is already great financial hardship and stress.

Yours faithfully,
RAY HURST, Hon Secretary,
The Institute of Careers Officers,
Careers Office,
Fry Street,
Middlesbrough,
Cleveland.
December 10.

Salisbury car park

From Mr Robert Key, MP for Salisbury (Conservative)

Sir, How tragic that not only has Constable been invoked in castigation of the dean and chapter over the matter of parking arrangements at Salisbury Cathedral but that, within months of the proud fêting of our Nobel Laureate, William Golding (whose novel, *The Spire*, gives such powerful insight into the intellectual torture of our cathedral's builders) the Salisbury community should be so unnecessarily rent.

It is true that Canon Dunlop's perception of the problem (letter, December 11) is contradicted by the bishop and by many Close residents. But no one questions the need for car parking. We do query the proposed siting of a new coach park – quite different.

Interestingly, the site suggested is the Rack Close, so named after the racks of hay provided in that meadow by the dean for the horses of visitors and clergy in days gone by.

The message is clear: the time has come to set aside our squabbles and explore the many constructive suggestions which have emerged during this sorry dispute. Our objectives must be long-term – and would, I hope, include exclusion of coaches from the Close and a resolution not to knock any holes in the Close walls.

Within the tourist industry there is a mass of information on "set-down and park" and other schemes, well tried in Britain and around our shrinking tourist world.

Salisbury Close remains an oasis and a beacon, physical and spiritual. We share a duty to conserve its architectural and ecological heritage. Parochial interest is quite legitimate but the dean and chapter should not be surprised at the wider outcry which has followed their somewhat insensitive presentation of the problem.

There will be other, bigger problems. Let us put them all in perspective and agree that they are soluble.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT KEY,
House of Commons.
December 12.

From Mr M. J. Faulkes

Sir, Canon Dunlop's letter (December 11) is amazing.

In his letter he says, "Unless we exclude the traffic from the Close..." why not do just that?

Yours faithfully,
M. J. FAULKES,
171 Kidmore Road,
Caversham,
Reading,
Berkshire.
December 12.

British Council

From Mr Gavin Scott

Sir, I read with interest (December 5) of Captain William Cooper's difficulties in finding engineering texts in the British Council library in Rome. I recently encountered almost precisely the opposite difficulty in the British Council library in Bombay, while making a documentry film. I found row after row after row of empty shelves which had been cleared of Agatha Christie, Len Deighton and P. G. Wodehouse to make room for such down-to-earth texts as *The Care and Maintenance of Pre-stressed Concrete* and *A Guide to Bee-keeping*.

We were told that this had been done on instructions from the Overseas Development Administration, which wished to ensure that the contents of British Council libraries more closely reflected Britain's practical aid programme to the sub-continent. We examined the library's reports and discovered that there had been "angry scenes" when local clients had realised how they were being deprived.

Bearing in mind the long-lasting and subtle influences that literature can have as a means of cultural propaganda, my producer and I wondered if this policy is not too "down to earth" for its own good. But we were chiefly struck by the regrettable fact that the council's financial circumstances are so straitened that choices like this have to be made at all.

The French and the Germans spend between two and three times what we spend on this kind of overseas activity: this has not only (for example) assisted, in my view, in the process by which France and Germany now enjoy closer relations than those between Britain and France, but is also ensuring that the Germans are expanding their influence in America when our official cultural programme there is tiny.

This is to say nothing of the way the relatively small amounts we allocate to the British Council hamper our competition for influence, especially in the Third World, with the Soviet Union. There is all too much evidence in India that, when it comes to winning "hearts and minds", Britain is losing out to the Russians.

Yours faithfully,
GAVIN SCOTT,
19 Mount Ararat Road,
Richmond,
Surrey.

From Sir Harry Hookway

Sir, Mr Swainson (December 8) claims that the British Council's purchasing policy for their libraries overseas is highly questionable.

His own evidence for this sweeping assertion is that some 14 years ago he found a complete history of Test matches between England and Australia on the shelves of the council's library in Tripoli. It makes an amusing anecdote but, of course, casual browsing through any library's collections will throw up a few esoteric or eccentric purchases.

However, my experience as chairman of the British Council's Library Advisory Committee has been that the council's policy, far from being questionable, is highly successful. Some six million books, covering all aspects of British endeavour in the arts, humanities, social sciences, science and technology, are borrowed each year, generating a revenue of about £1 million from an overseas community seeking knowledge of British ideas that is second only in size to the audience for the BBC's World Service.

Yours faithfully,
HARRY HOOKWAY,
35 Goldstone Crescent,
Hove,
East Sussex.
December 11.

Motorway crashes

From Mr G. P. Wilkinson

Sir, We close the motorways after a pile-up. Why not before?

With the onset of a sandstorm and visibility similar to that in our own fogs, the Saudis close their highways.

Yours faithfully,
G. P. WILKINSON,
38 Cuckoo Hill Drive,
Pinner,
Middlesex.
December 12.

From Mr J. F. Dibblee

Sir, Mr McCombie's idea (December 13) of placing spaced reflectors on motorways to help judgement of safe speed in fog has two drawbacks, apart from cost. The driver's distance from a reflector will depend on which lane he is in and in any case he should be looking straight ahead, not glancing sideways.

But spaced indicators already exist, both for day and night and right in front of the driver – lane lines and cats' eyes. All we need is publicity linking how many you can see with how fast you can safely drive.

Yours faithfully,
J. F. DIBBLEE,
43 Cross Lane,
Cubbington,
Leamington Spa,
Warwickshire.
December 13.

Sunday as day for common sense

From the Chairman of Habitat/Mothercare

Sir, I claim, for the retail trade, that we are the most vigorous and innovative sector of the British economy. We are collectively one of the biggest employers. We are the industry most in touch with the populace.

We are also an industry governed by arcane and archaic legislation. Its maze of arbitrary do's and don'ts provides a source of whimsical entertainment for those so minded: donkey fodder can be bought on a Sunday but not cat food in a tin; fresh cat food is all right: a Boeing 747 can be bought in kit form but not assembled; a story serialised in a magazine is OK, but in a paperback is not, unless bought at a railway bookstall: you can buy a truss but not an athletic support – unless you are at a sportsground, when it is permissible.

After years of this nonsense the Government finally appointed a committee to recommend changes. And so they have Common sense has prevailed. The recommendation is unequivocally for removing all controls on shop hours.

The Government response to the report of its own committee seems set to heighten the absurdity – vacillation on making the change, but an unequivocal commitment to enforce the standing law. It may be the pantomime season, but we are not amused.

You claim in your leader column (December 12) that as a "solid burgher" I should behave in a different way from Mr Patel, but, race relations implications aside, we both remain, dear Sir, bemused.

TERENCE CONRAN, Chairman,
Habitat/Mothercare, plc,
The Heal's Building,
196 Tottenham Court Road, W1.
December 13.

Taxing lump sums

From the Chairman of the Life Offices' Association

Sir, Your financial leader (page 21) of December 8 can hardly be correct in suggesting that the pensions lobby appears to be offering tax on lump sums as a sacrificial offering to persuade the Chancellor not to tax pension contributions or investment returns.

On the contrary, we in the life offices believe that tax-free lump sums are an accepted and valued part of the pensions system. Millions of people have planned their finances in expectation of a tax-free lump sum on retirement and for many of these people it represents their only opportunity of ever having a capital sum.

Lump-sum benefits play an important role in the country's economy by providing start-up capital for new businesses and by facilitating reorganisation of a company's workforce so as to retire older workers and open up new jobs for younger people.

A change in the rules could affect a vast number of people; there are over 11 million employees entitled to a lump sum on retirement, including a very large number of civil servants and employees in the public sector who have no option of taking pension benefits in place of a lump sum.

To tax the lump sums of these people who have planned for their old age, and in many cases entered into financial commitments, in expectation of the lump-sum benefits would be totally inequitable

Yours faithfully,
M. H. FIELD, Chairman,
The Life Offices' Association,
Aldermary House,
Queen Street, EC4.
December 10.

A final fling

From Mr Victor Ross

Sir, Marghanita Laski's article (December 6) reveals a flaw in the *OED*'s definition of *Torschlusspanik*. This should read "panic at the thought that a door... may be about to be shut" rather than that "a door has shut".

There is a significant difference: the panic is about squeezing through the shutting door, not about contemplating opportunities irretrievably foreclosed.

This is demonstrated by the typical, I am inclined to say, exclusive use of the expression in a sexual context, to describe the alarm of middle-aged persons who believe that the time for sexual conquest is running out. It is during *Torschlusspanik* that elderly men are said to chase young girls and mature women's thoughts turn to boys.

Far from being, in the *OED*'s sense, a form of desperate resignation, *Torschlusspanik* is a great spur to ill-judged action. "Last-fling syndrome" would be a better definition than the wordy one quoted by Miss Laski.

As to *Torschlussfreude*, a word she makes up, this now acquires an entirely different meaning – the elation that comes with bolting before the stable door is shut.

Yours faithfully,
VICTOR ROSS,
Worten Mill,
Great Chart,
Near Ashford,
Kent.
December 9.

From Professor E. H. Sondheimer

Sir, With reference to Marghanita Laski's entertaining article, in Germany – at least in former, more conventional, times – "life's opportunities" meant something quite specific.

Torschlusspanik was simply the fear of an ageing maiden that she would fail to catch her husband. Alas, the *Torschlusspanik* was all too often succeeded by the *Torschlusskatastrophe!*

Yours faithfully,
E. H. SONDHEIMER,
51 Cholmeley Crescent, N6.
December 10.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 14: Admiral Sir William Pillar had the honour of being received by The Queen on his appointment as Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Jersey.

Lady Pillar had the honour of being received by Her Majesty.

Mr Justice Brown had the honour of being received by The Queen on his appointment as a Justice of the High Court of Justice when Her Majesty conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President of the Federation Equestre Internationale, attended by Mr Brian McGrath, arrived at Heathrow Airport, London this afternoon in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight from Switzerland.

By command of The Queen, the Viscount Long (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London this afternoon upon the departure of The King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and bade farewell to His Majesty on behalf of Her Majesty.

The funeral service for the Hon Mrs Estelle Emily Spencer Ashe, only surviving daughter of the late Baron Kingsale and Ringrone, will take place at St Mary's Church, Charlbury, Oxfordshire, at 11 o'clock on Tuesday, December 18.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr T. S. Bittleston and Dr D. M. Webb
The engagement is announced between Tim, son of Mr and Mrs J. R. Bittleston, of Woking, and Diana, daughter of Mr and Mrs G. H. Webb, of Woking.

Mr M. S. Dymock and Miss C. J. Urquhart-Hay
The engagement is announced between Marcus Seymour, youngest son of Mr and Mrs J. Dymock, of 33 Rawiri Street, Gisborne, New Zealand, and Charlotte Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Donald Urquhart-Hay, of 2A Sefton Street, Wellington, New Zealand.

Mr D. L. Edgar and Miss C Wilson
The engagement is announced between Donald, son of Mr and Mrs Kirby A. Edgar, of Orange, California, and Carol, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs George Wilson, of Eding, Aylesbury Road, Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire.

Lieutenant A. N. Handyside, RN, and Miss J. A. Eccles
The engagement is announced between Alex, only son of the late Mr and Mrs N. Handyside, of Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, and Janet, only daughter of Mr and Mrs R. P. Eccles, of Bradford-on-Tone, Somerset.

Mr N. Hawkins, and Miss S. Weedon
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, only son of Mr Kenneth Hawkins, OBE, DFC, and Mrs Joyce Hawkins, of Wokingham, Berkshire, and Stephanie, eldest daughter of Mr David Weedon, of Saffron Walden, Essex, and the late Maria Weedon.

Mr M. Thomas and Miss S. Cadell
The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr and Mrs D. L. Thomas, of Thorpe Bay, and Selina, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Cadell, of Highgate

Mr S. C. Yeadon Miss J. A. Rosser
The engagement is announced between Simon, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Tony Yeadon, of Queens Park, Bournemouth, and Julie, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Jeff Rosser, of Tuckton, Bournemouth.

Mr G. McNeill and Miss S. C. S. Ryan
The engagement is announced and the marriage will take place in Australia between Gregory, younger son of Daniel and Rosemary McNeill, of Melbourne, and Sarah, eldest daughter of Colonel and Mrs Ultan Ryan of London.

Marriages

Mr S. E. Prior-Palmer and Lady Julia Lloyd George
The marriage took place yesterday in Winchester Cathedral of Mr Simon Prior-Palmer, son of the late Major-General G. E. Prior-Palmer and of Lady Doreen Prior-Palmer, and Lady Julia Lloyd George, daughter of Earl Lloyd George of Dwyfor and of Ruth Countess Lloyd George of Dwyfor. The Rev Ian Tomlinson officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Viscount Grimston, Henry Hughes, James Hanbury, Hector Fleming and Megan Fletcher. Mr Mark Nicholson was best man.

A reception was held at Appleshaw House, near Andover, and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

M P. H. R. Daviron and Miss C. S. H. Robertson
The marriage took place in Napa Valley, California, on Friday, November 23, between M Pierre Daviron and Miss Christian Robertson.

Mr J. E. Gilbey and Miss J. G. Tucker
The marriage between Mr John Engels Gilbey and Miss Janet Grace Tucker took place on Friday, December 7, 1984, and was followed by a service of blessing at St Mary's Church, Great Dunmow, conducted by the Rev John Mathews.

Birthdays

TODAY: Mr David Abell, 42; Lord Acton, 77; Sir Denis Barnes, 70; Mr Michael Bogdanov, 46; Lord Croham, 67; Lord Dunpark, 69; Air Marshal Sir John Fitzpatrick, 55; Miss Ida Haendel, 60; Mr Gunnar Hagglof, 80; Sir Henry Hardman, 79; General Sir Frank Kitson, 58; Dr Una Kroll, 59; Sir Eugene Melville, 73; Mr Oscar Niemeyer, 77; Miss Edna O'Brien, 48; Viscount Trenchard, 61.

TOMORROW: Professor Sir Harold Bailey, 85; Mr N C Blamey, 70; Mr F R Brown, 73; Mr Arthur C Clarke, 67; Judge Myrella Cohen, QC, 57; the Hon Peter Dickinson, 57; Major G J Graham-Green, 78; Sir Jasper Hollom, 67; Lord Margadale, 78; Mr J H F Monahan, 72; Vice-Admiral Sir Charles Norris, 84; Air Chief Marshal Sir Hubert Patch, 80; Sir Victor Pritchett, 84; Lieutenant-General Sir David Scott-Barrett, 62; Sir John Thompson, 77; Miss Jacqueline Thwaites, 53; Miss Liv Ullman, 46; Dr Jan van Loewen, 83.

Latest wills

Mr Leonard John Milne, of Westminster, London, left estate valued at £2,324,274 net. He left his property mostly to his widow.

Mr Robert Whipp, of Woodley, Greater Manchester, company director, left estate valued at £820,032 net.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include:
Mr Ranald MacLean, QC, to be a member of the Council of Tribunals for three years from January 12, 1985.

Mr G. P. Newbery, Master of Brandeston Hall, Suffolk, to succeed Mr D. R. Paul as Master of Hurstpierpoint College Junior School from September 1985.

Mr Christopher Brickell, director of the Royal Horticultural Society's garden at Wisley, Surrey, since 1969, to be director general of the society from January 1 next year.

Eton College

Michaelmas Half at Eton College closes today. There are 111 boys leaving, including the captain of the school J. P. S. Whyatt, KS, and the captain of the Oppidans, M. J. Drake, OS. Mr M. A. Nicholson is retiring from the staff after 37 years' service. In the final of the House Association Mr R. P. C. Forman's defeated Mr R. O. Quibell's in the final by four goals to two, thereby retaining the cup for the third year. School opens for the Lent Half on January 15.

Frank Hellner

Universal plea for tolerance

There is a critical moment in the history of all peoples when the very fate of the nation hangs precariously in the balance between survival and extinction; when the destiny of future generations depends, sadly, upon the result of the sword rather than the ploughshare.

Remembrance Sunday, celebrated last month, commemorates such an event in the modern history of the western world. Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, commemorates such an event in the ancient history of the Jewish people.

On the twenty fifth day of the Hebrew month of Kislev, beginning at sunset on Tuesday and continuing for eight days, Jews throughout the world will usher in the festival of Hanukkah, a holiday which commemorates the Jewish struggle and eventual achievement of religious independence from the despotic rule of the Seleucid (Syrian-Greek) Empire over the land of Judea, more than twenty-one hundred years ago.

This familiar story of the courage and heroism of Judas Maccabaius and his small band, armed with little more than their own religious zeal and determination to practice their faith, is, indeed, the *cause celebre* of every people still living under the oppressive yoke of spiritual and physical enslavement.

It was on twenty fifth Kislev, 165 BC, that the small guerrilla army, led by the Maccabees, regained control of the Temple mount in Jerusalem from the occupying powers, cleansed it of its defilement from pagan worship and rededicated it to the worship of the God of justice.

However, it was not the heroic valour of the Maccabees nor the bravery on the field of battle that Jewish tradition chose to emphasize in retelling the story to future generations. When the rabbis of the Talmud asked the question: "What is Hanukkah?" it was asked neither in bewilderment nor in ignorance.

Unlike the biblical festivals, the precise origin of Hanukkah was not obscured by antiquity. Between the events which had led up to the first Hanukkah and the time of the rabbis, only a few hundred years had elapsed, hardly enough time for the meaning and origin of the festival to have been forgotten.

Rather, the question was posed rhetorically by the sages of Israel in order to enable them to introduce into the already miraculous account of the victory of the "few over the many", yet another miracle: "the miracle of the lights".

Accordingly, when the Maccabees regained control of the Temple and had cleansed it, they discovered that all the cruses of oil, used by the priests for keeping alight the ancient candelabrum, had been defiled, all save one. That one cruse of oil ordinarily, would have been sufficient to burn for one day. Instead, according to the legend, it burned for eight days, enough time for the priests to prepare a new supply of pure oil, thus the reason given for the eight-day celebration.

While recognizing the necessity for military might at the time, the rabbis and sages of later generations attempted to play down the military means by highlighting the religious ends. The spiritual expressions of the event, as depicted by the miracle of the lights, was given prominence so that not the glory of war be remembered as the focal point of the story but rather the eternalness of God's truth and the message of the divine right of man to be free.

The Maccabean victory thus attested to the triumph of the God of justice and compassion over Baal-Zeus, a testimony to the vindication of righteousness and freedom over tyranny. "Not by might nor by power but by my spirit" (Zech. 4:6) became the leitmotif of Hanukkah and the prophetical message associated with the festival. It is in this spirit that Hanukkah has been transmitted from generation to generation.

Hanukkah was thus proclaimed a festival of rededication not only of th physical Temple but also of the spiritual ideals and values which kindled a light, dispelling darkness and restoring godliness to a world that had sought to dethrone Him.

Hanukkah and Christmas usually coincide. This year the last night of the Jewish festival occurs on Christmas Day, and the homes of both Christians and Jews will be illuminated by light.

That both the Christian and Jewish festivals fall on the 25th day of the month of their respective calendars may be coincidental but the element of light, which is integral to each, is not.

It has long been recognized by scholars that ancient festivals are not merely commemorations of single events in the past. Often, newer festivals replace older ones which have lost their significance, while retaining aspects of the discarded festival. As such, both Hanukkah and Christmas occur at about the time of the winter solstice, when the sun is at its furthest point from earth and appears to stand still.

It is understandable, therefore, how the ancients, witnessing the dimishing daylight hours, would introduce into their worship, rituals which incorporated fire and light to prolong the day.

When this ancient nature festival evolved into what was to become Hanukkah and Christmas, the element of fire and light was retained and accomodated into the new festivals, even while their characters were significantly changed. It may well be that Hanukkah and Christmas have their origins in an even older festival common to both.

Today, Hanukkah and Christmas are, of course, disinctly different. Whtever their common antecedents, they have each evolved into specific expressions of their own respective faiths. Still, they continue to share a common universal theme. Christmas is a specifically Christian festival, yet it speaks in universal accents of "peace on earth, goodwill toward men" (Luke 2:14).

Hanukkah is a specifically Jewish festival, yet its intrinsic message of truth knows no one religious or racial claim. Its universal plea for tolerance and human dignity is re-echoed wherever and whenever brave men dare to cast off the shackles of bigotry and hatred and to raise their eyes heavenward for a glimpse of even the back of the author of all goodness nd the creator of all men.

The writer is rabbi of the Finchley Progressive Synagogue.

Thoroughbred price: A bronze of a leaping horse by the Dutch sculptor, Adrien de Vries (1560 – 1626), which was sold at auction in Paris for 9.2 million French francs (£800,000), the highest price ever recorded at an art auction in France. Vries trained in the workshop of Giovanni da Bologna and made a successful career at the court of Emperor Rudolph II in Prague. The horse had remained in the same family since the seventeenth century.

Mackintosh cabinet sold for £126,500

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

A Charles Rennie Mackintosh cabinet became the most expensive item ever sold at auction in Scotland when it fetched £126,500 at a Phillips auction in Edinburgh on Thursday.

The stained oak cabinet is a huge piece, measuring 160 by 182 cms, and incorporates beaten brass panels by Margaret Macdonald, one of which is dated 1899.

Phillips had been estimating a price of more than £30,000 but the bidding took off. It was bought by two dealers acting in partnership, Bourne Fine Art, of Edinburgh, and London and Michael John, of London.

A design for the piece, which was made for Alexander H. Seggie, has been found among the Mackintosh papers but the cabinet itself was, until recently, unknown to Mackintosh enthusiasts, having been bought by the vendor's family 40 years ago, before Mackintosh was rediscovered as a master of twentieth century design.

For the second day running, Christie's yesterday sold an important bit of historic technology to Bobiner, the London dealers, from the wonderful Cottrell family inheritance at Rousham Park, near Oxford.

Yesterday it was the turn of a highly unusual balance spring verge watch by Thomas Tompion dating from around 1675-79. The price was £27,000.

On Thursday at Christie's South Kensington Bobinet's had paid £62,000 (estimate £18,000-£22,000) for a silver quadrant dial made around 1570 by Humphrey Cole.

Important English and Continental silver offered at Sotheby's in New York on Thursday totalled £1.3 million with 16 per cent left unsold. Jacques Koopman, the London dealer, carried off the most expensive lot, a set of four Charles II silver table candlesticks at \$203,500 (estimate \$175,000-\$225,000) or £168,000.

However, he let a few other buyers in on the sale on this occasion, instead of outbidding the room on all the best pieces as is his custom. A private collector spent \$85,800 (estimate \$40,000-\$50,000) or £70,900 to acquire a large silver sugar caster by Paul de Lamerie of 1724.

Luncheons

Master's Club
A luncheon of the Master's Club was held at the Oval yesterday. The toast of the Master was propose by Mr J. Arlott and others present were:
Mr M R Barton, Sir Alexander Durie, Sir George Edwards, OM, Mr C S Elliott, Mr A R Gover, Mr L Harrison, Mr J A D Hobbs, Mr T N Pearce, Mr B L Reed, Mr R Subba Row, Mr I Scott-Browne, Mr L Ames, Mr J Hobbs Jnr, and Mr J Mercer.

Institution of Highways and Transportation
The annual luncheon of the Institution of Highways and Transportation took place yesterday at Grosvenor House. Mr W. T. F. Austin, president, was in the chair and the other speakers were Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for Transport, and Mr P. A. Fitzpatrick.

Anglo-German Association
The executive committee of the Anglo-German Association gave a luncheon in honour of the new Minister at the Federal German Embassy, Baron Hans von Stein, at the Caledonian Club yesterday. Among those present were:
Sir Frank Roberts (president), Lord Inglewood, Sir Roger Jackling, Dr R Holubek, Mr Peter Johnson, Air Commodore L G P Martin (chairman), Mr N Reddaway, Miss A Meikle, Mrs A M Scales, Mr T Wiedemann and Mr and Mrs P Vieland.

Dinners

Johnson Society
The Johnson Society commemorated Samuel Johnson's 200th anniversary at dinner in the House of Commons last night. The host was Mr Patrick Cormack, MP, and the principal speakers were Lord Denning and Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, CH.

North Eastern Circuit
A dinner was held last night at the Yorkshire Club, York, in honour of Mr Justice Mustill to mark his retirement as senior presiding judge of the circuit; Lady Mustill and Mr C. W. Mustill were also present. The leader of the circuit, Mr Gilbert Gray, QC, presided.

Old Dunstonian Association
The annual dinner of the Old Dunstonian Association was held yesterday at St Dunstan's College. Mr B. J. Robinson, president, was in the chair and other speakers were Mr R. L. Smith, Mr M. J. Hughes (second master) A. F. Chadwick (head of school) and Judge David Griffiths.

Guild of Motoring Writers
The annual dinner of the Guild of Motoring Writers was held at the Royal Automobile Club last night. Lord Strathcarron, president, presided and the guest of honour was Mr Tom Northey. Other guests included Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, the Hon Gerald Lascelles and Mr Nicki Lauda.

3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery
Officers of CDJ (Sidi Rezegh) and M Batteries, RHA held their annual reunion dinner in the Royal Artillery Mess, Woolwich, last night. The Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe, General Sir Edward Burgess, was the guest of honour and Lieutenant-Colonel J. G. W. Dean presided.

RAF Wyton

Marshal of the RAF Sir Michael Beetham presented a new standard to No 100 Squadron yesterday at a parade at RAF Wyton. It was consecrated by the Chaplain-in-Chief of the RAF, the Ven G. R. Renowden. Among those present were:
The Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Strike Command, Air Chief Marshal Sir David Craig, the Air Officer Commanding No 18 Group, Air Marshal Sir John Fitzpatrick and past and present officers and members of the squadron.

Memorial service

Captain A. N. Wigley, RN
The Queen was represented by the Vice-Lieutenant of Dorset, Major-General H. M. G. Bond, at a memorial service for Captain A. N. Wigley, RN, held at HMS Osprey, Royal Naval Air Station, Portland. The Rev Nigel Johnson officiated and the Rev Bruce Lamb read the lesson. Among those present were:
Vice-Admiral Sir Derek Reffell, Controller of the Navy, Vice-Admiral R G A Fitch, Rear-Admiral D B Bathurst, Rear-Admiral Webster, Rear-Admiral R V Holley, and Captain Doe.

Services tomorrow: Third Sunday in Advent

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: HC 8; M 10.30: Benedicite, Sumsion in B flat, Jub, Purcell in B flat, Canon C Hudson; HC 11.30, Missa Brevis (Mozart), Int. O nata lux (Tallis); E 3.15, Magnificat and Nunc Dimitis (Murrill) in E, A, Greater love hath no man (Ireland), Mr M. McCrum.
WESTMINSTER ABBEY: HC, 8; M 10.30, Benedicite, Harris in A, this is the record of John (Gibbons), Rev S. Charles; HC 11.40; E 3, Nicholson in D flat, Vox dicentis (Naylor) Rev Dr A. Harvey; Organ Recital 5.55; ES 6.30, The Dean.
SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: HC 9; Eucharist, 11 A, Rejoice in the Lord (Redford), A High Word of God (Plainsong), Rev G. Bryant; E 3, A, Round me falls the night (Day), The Provost.
WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: Mass, 10.30; Mass in G (Poulenc) Ubi caritas (Durufle); Vespers 3.30, Magnificat octavi toni (Vivanco, O salutaris (Elgar).

CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: HC 8.30; MP 11.15, A, O Hosanna to the Son of David (Gibbons), Rev A. Ford.
THE QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY (public welcomed): M 11.15; T D, Marchant in G, A, Sleepers wake (J. S. Bach); HC, 12.30.
GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks: Festival of lessons and carols 11 and 6.
LINCOLN'S INN CHAPEL (public invited, entry via Lincoln's Inn Gateway): Family Carol Service, special order of service, 11.30.
TOWER OF LONDON (public welcomed): HC 9.15; M 11, Benedicite (Purcell), A, Blow up the trumpet (Pearson), the Chaplain.
TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street (public welcomed): HC 8.30; MP 11.15, Into this world of sorrow, Benedicite omnia opera (Sumsion in B flat), Benedictus (Walford Davies in G), A, Zion hears her watchmen's voices (J. S. Bach), The Master. Organ voluntary: Carol service 3.50.
ST CLEMENT DANES (RAF Church) (public welcomed): HC 8.30 MP in celebration of the Bicentenary of Samuel Johnson, 11 Venite SJ (Barnby) Jub (Sidwell) A, Salvator mundi (Tallis), Johnson's last prayer (Harris), Very Rev D. L. Edwards; HC 12.15, Service of nine lessons and carols in aid of the RAF Benevolent Fund 3.
CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: HC 8.30; M 11, A, We wait for your loving kindness (McKie) the Chaplain; E, 3.30, Int, How shall I fitly meet thee? (Bach), A, Laetentur coeli (Byrd); Carol service (Home Rangers Association) 6.
ALL HALLOWS BY THE TOWER: Sung Eucharist 11, Canon Van Culin.
ALL SOULS, Langham Place: HC 9.30, Family toy and carol service, Rev R. Bewes; congregational carol service, 6.30 Mr D. Turner.
ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street: LM 8 and 5.15; M 10.20; HM 11, Missa Brevis in C, Spatzenmesse (Mozart) Rev J. W. Holden; Solemn E, sermon and Benediction 6, wood in D, Rev J. S. W. Young.
CHELSEA OLD CHURCH: HC 8 and noon; Children's service 10 and 11, Rev J. H. L. Cross; 6, Rev C. E. L. Thomson.
GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street: HC 8.15; Sung Eucharist 11, Kyrie – Plainsong, mass ecce bone (Tye) Audivi vocem de coeli (Tallis), Rev Dr A. W. Marks.
HOLY TRINITY, Brompton: HC 8; HC sung 9, Christingle family service, Rev J. D. Irvine, carols by candlelight 6.30, Rev J. T. C. B. Collins and Rev J. A. K. Millar; candlelit ES 9.
HOLY TRINITY, Prince Consort Road: HC 8.30 and 12.05; Choral MP 11, Rev C. Laurence.
HOLY TRINITY Sloane Street (Sloane Sq. Tube): HC 8.30 12.10; Eucharist 10.30, Canon Roberts.
St. ALBAN'S Holborn: SM 9.30; HM 11, Fr Houlding; Kleine orgelmesse (Haydn), Rorate coeli (Byrd); LM 5.30
ST BARTHOLOMEW-THE-GREAT PRIORY (AD 1123): HC 9; M and HC 11, TD, Byrd Short service, A, Audivi, media nocte (Tallis); E and HC 6.30, Byrd Short Service, A, Emendemus in melius (Byrd), the Rector.
ST BRIDES, FLEET STREET: HC 8.30; Choral M and Eucharist 11, Benedicite, (Sumsion in B flat), Kyries (Jackson in G); E 6.30, sung to Plainchant followed by Britten's Ceremony of Carols for treble voices and harp.
ST CYPRIAN, Clarence Gate, Glentworth Street, NW1: LM 8; M 10.30; HM 11, Rev P.R. Harding.
ST GEORGE'S, HANOVER SQUARE: HC 8.15; Sung Eucharist 11, Missa aeterna Christi munera (Palestrina), Eternal God (Harris), the Rector.
ST JAMES, Garlickhill, City: 6.30 Advent carol service with readings, Rev D. Baker.
ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly: HC 8.30; Sung Eucharist, 11.00; EP 6.
ST. MARGARET'S, Westminster: HC 8.15; M 11, Canon Beeson; HC 12.15.
ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS: HC 8 and 12.30; Family Communion 9.45, the Archdeacon of London; MS 11.30, N. Ingram-Smith; ES (with carols) 7; Radio 4 broadcast service 8, Rev C. Hedley.
ST MARY ABBOT, Kensington: HC 8 and 12.30; Sung Eucharist 9.30, Rev D Sox; M 11.15 the Vicar; E 6.30, Rev M J Thompson.
ST. MARY'S, Bourne Street: LM 8, 9.45, 7; H M (with strings) 11, Little organ Mass (Haydn), Rejoice in the Lord alway (Purcell), Christe redemptor omnium (Monteverdi), Fr R Harries; E and Solemn Benediction 6.15.
ST MARYLEBONE PARISH CHURCH: HC 8 and 11, Rev D Head, Mass in E minor (Bruckner), Lass dich nur nichts (Brahms); 6.30, Rev C K Hamel Cooke.
ST MICHAEL'S, Chester Square: HC 8.15 and 11, Canon de Berry; carols by Candlelight 6.30, Rev J A Mumford.
ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, Knightsbridge: HC 8 and 9; Solemn Eucharist 11, Mass of the Quiet Hour (George Oldroyd) Benedictus in D minor (Vaughan Williams), Rejoice in the Lord alway (John Redford), Right Revd Edward Knapp-Fisher.
ST PAUL'S, Robert Adam Street: HC 11, Mr J Stephens; carols 6.30, Rev G Cassidy.
ST PETER'S, Eaton Square: HC 8.15; Family Mass 10; Solemn Mass 11, Rev A Chidwick, Missa quinti toni (Lassus), motet: Virga Jesse floruit (Bruckner).
ST SIMON ZELOTES, Chelsea: HC 8; Parish C 11; EP, 6.30, Rev O R Clarke.
ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road: LM 8 and 9; HM 11, Missa sine nomine (Asola), Rev R Browne; Solemn E and Benediction 6, Prebendary H Moore.
ST VEDAST, Foster Lane: SM 11, Willan in D, Sion hears the watchmen's voices (Bach), Rev G Reddington.

ST COLUMBA'S (Church of Scotland) Pont Street: 11, the Very Rev Dr J Fraser McLuskey; 6.30, Christmas music.
CROWN COURT CHURCH (Church of Scotland) Russell Street, Covent Garden: 11.15, Rev J Miller Scott; 6.30, Festival of nine lessons and carols.
THE ORATORY, SW7: LM 7, 8, 9 and 10; HM 11, Messe Basse (Faure), Rejoice in the Lord (Purcell); LM 12.30, 4.30 and 7; Vespers, 3.30, Netimeas Maria (Victoria).
ST ANSELM AND CECILIA, Kingsway: Solemn Latin Mass, 11, Missa in tempore Adventus (M Haydn), Desidero te millies (Agazzari).
ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place (Holborn Circus): SM 11, Missa Brevis Sancti Joannis de Deo (Haydn), Alma redemptoris.
THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street (Regent Street) W1: LM 8 and 10; SM, Missa Brevis (Seiber), Canite tuba in Sion (Guerrero), Rorate caeli desuper (Guerrero) LM noon, 4 and 6.
CHURCH OF OUR LADY, St John's Wood: SM (Latin) 10.45, Missa sanctorum meritis (Palestrina), Laetentur coeli (Byrd).
THE JESUIT CHURCH, Farm Street: 7.30, 8.30, 10, 11 (Sung Latin Mass), Missa in Adventus (M Haydn), Ecce concipies (Handl), organ: Mass 12.15, 4.15 and 6.15.
ST JOHN'S WOOD UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (Presbyterian/Congregationalist), Lord's Roundabout, NW8: 9.30am Rev J Miller.
CENTRAL HALL, Westminster: 11 and 6.30 (Christingle), Rev R John Tudor.
WEST LONDON MISSION, Hinde Street Methodist Church, W1: 11, Dr J Newton; 6.30, Rev S Jordan.
CITY TEMPLE, Holborn Viaduct: Lessons and Carols 11, 6.30, Rev Dr B Johanson.
WESTMINSTER CHAPEL, Buckingham Gate: 11 and 6.30, Rev Dr R T Kendall.
WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road: 11, Rev Dr R C Gibbins.

Science report

Concentrating the power of the sun

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

A full-size version of a new type of solar energy system has come into operation in the United States. It is the demonstration model of a development that should be available commercially in two years.

Known as the Dish Sterling electric plant, it will consist of numerous dish-shaped structures which follow the Sun, capturing its energy and converting it directly into electricity.

According to the latest measurements of its effectiveness in harnessing solar radiation, up to 28 per cent of available is claimed to be converted into electricity. That would make it the most efficient solar energy technology developed.

Three major electric power companies in the United States, Southern California Edison, Georgia Power and the Nevada Power Company, have collaborated with the giant aerospace corporation McDonnell Douglas to perfect the device.

The structures, which look like giant radio telescopes, are called concentrator dishes. Each is lined with 82 highly reflective mirrors that focus energy into a power conversion unit suspended over the mirrors.

A single dish will generate up to 25 kilowatts of power and a plant of 2,000 dishes, producing 50,000 kilowatts, is enough to supply a community of more than 30,000 people.

The key to the efficiency of the two full-scale units, which have been brought into operation in California and McDonnell Douglas's test site, lie in the solar-to-electric power conversion unit devised and built by United Stirling of Sweden.

OBITUARY

SENOR VICENTE ALEIXANDRE

Leading Spanish poet

Vicente Aleixandre, a leading Spanish poet of the so-called Generation of '27, and winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1977, has died at the age of 80. A remarkable creative genius, he continued to produce vivid and vital work long into his old age.

Vicente Aleixandre was born on April 26 1898 in Seville; but from 1900 until 1909, when his family moved to Madrid, he lived in Malaga – this town and the coast near it figure largely in his poetry. His father was an engineer. During childhood he wandered much by the sea, and made friends with the fishermen, and later with the peasants; in 1972 he was to say "from the Andalusian peasant I have learned, and still learn, more than from any other living man".

Aleixandre studied law at the University of Madrid, and obtained a diploma in business management. "But the usefulness of these studies was to be short-lived", he wrote. He was, successively, a journalist on a financial magazine, a lecturer in commercial law at the School of Business Studies in Madrid (1920-22), and an employee of a railway company. His first signed work was a series of articles on railway economics in a technical magazine.

All this time he was writing poetry, but secretly: "I never showed anyone a line of verse before I was twenty-seven. Not out of modesty. As I came to understand later, out of fear of being hurt." In 1923 a severe kidney complaint assailed him, and from 1925 until 1927 he lived quietly in the countryside near Madrid.

In these two years, fearful for his life, he wrote the poems of his first book, *Ambito* (1928), *Scope*. In this collection, before his discovery of the work of Siegmund Freud in 1929 – a discovery crucial to him and to his work – he expresses his sexual love, his repression of this in face of the terror of death, and his mystical faith in the light, and in a pantheistic eternity. The volume is very much the work of a poet whose emotions and violent sensuality are wholly internalised; but its dizzying effect, and scarcely yet choate power were at once recognized as marking the advent of a major and original genius.

From 1928 onwards Aleixandre became a leading literary figure, close friend of Lorca, Guillén, Cernuda, Salinas, Alberti and others in the great group of Spanish poets of this generation. The seventeenth-century Góngora exerted a very powerful influence on all these poets – except Aleixandre, who, although his first book reflected the influence of these fellow poets in their colourful juxtapositions of words, was more affected by the mental liberty offered by surrealism; but he was never simply a surrealistic poet, and he rejected this label.

Aleixandre became increasingly original, seeking to express his partially Freudian-inspired vision of what he called "the amorous unity of the universe".

His mastefpeice is generally recognized to be *La destruccion o el amor* (1935), *Destruction or Love*; this is an inspired exploration of the erotic, in which love is finally united with death, in a telluric landscape. By the time he came to write it Aleixandre had read Pablo Neruda. It remains an extraordinary achievement, with a core of profound humanism. Civilized man is seen here as debased except when at the height of innocent sexual passion, when he achieves the serenity of animals.

These poems were written while Aleixandre was convalescing after an operation for the removal of a kidney. These and Aleixandre's other, later poems reject Christianity, but are (mostly) essentially affirmatory in their pantheistic confidence that man will, as he put it, "rot into Eden".

"In 1936", as the poet wrote, "the Civil War broke out, and found me from its very beginning on the Republican side" (he published this, though abroad, while Franco was still alive). "My task was not too easy in the early postwar years", he added wryly. He spoke of his central concern: "the inspiring principle of the unity of the poet with the whole of creation: the world, the man".

Allowing for his rejection of Christianity, Aleixandre's concerns are reminiscent of those of the practitioner of another art, the French composer Olivier Messiaen: he too was obsessed with birdsong and "memoires of birds".

The most praised work of Aleixandre's last period was the more sombre *En un vasto dominio* (1962), *In a Vast Dominion*: in this work he begins to face, with unique candour, the problems of old age. Gradually, as he came to accept this condition, his work became less melancholy. The poems were felt by critics to have broken through to the kind of difficult simplicities which are occasionally the reward for a lifetime's major work.

When Aleixandre received the Nobel Prize in 1977 most readers were surprised that it did not go to his friend Jorge Guillén, whose poetry had been more translated, and was much more widely accessible, as well as easier to understand. But the Nobel Committee felt that Aleixandre, unable to leave Franco Spain because of his poor health (he was a semi-invalid for over fifty years), had never compromised himself – and it was well known that he opened his house in Madrid to poets of all persuasions in the dark days after the war.

He was privately distressed at the low quality of verse of Falangist poets, but he encouraged them as he encouraged every other poet, seeking with a noble magnanimity of spirit to unify all factions. He worked behind the scenes – never seeking acknowledgement – to obtain the release of imprisoned writers, and was more responsible than any other single person for creating the relaxed censorship of the middle and late 1960s, which led to better things.

Aleixandre, who was unmarried, lived in Madrid all his adult life, but spent his summers in the town of Miraflores de la Sierra, which figures in his works. Some of his poems have been translated in *A Longing for the Light* (1979); there is also a bi-lingual *Poems/Poemas* (1978).

MAJOR WILLIAM BROWN

Charles Chenevix Trench writes:

The death of Major William Alexander Brown recalls an extraordinary episode on the Indian Frontier in 1947.

Just before Independence 'Willie' Brown, aged 24, was commanding the Gilgit Scouts, an irregular corps responsible for the defence of a mountainous area adjoining Afghanistan and Chinese Turkestan, which was legally part of Kashmir State but administered by a British political Agent.

Except for about 150 Sikh and Hindu clerks, traders and artisans, the people were Muslim tribesman with bitter folk-memories of Kashmir rule in the 19th century. At Independence the political Agent was replaced by a Hindu Governor, the Scouts became willy-nilly soldiers of the Hindu Maharajah and Brown a contract officer in the Maharajah's service.

Ten weeks after Independence, the Maharajah announced the accession of his state to India. Brown saw that the consequences would be a massacre of the Hindus and Sikhs in Gilgit and invasion by pathan 'liberating' forces on whom the Scouts would never fire in defence of Hindu rule.

He therefore staged a *coup d'etat*. The Governor (his superior officer) was taken into protective custody; the Scouts took over the telegraph and wireless stations, and the bridge over the Indus to prevent the intervention of a Kashmir State Forces battalion on the south bank. Brown then informed Pershawar by wireless of the accession of Gilgit to Pakistan.

In this he was not entirely accurate. The tribesmen were for Pakistan, but it was by no means certain that Pakistan would have them; and there was a revolutionary caucus which proclaimed the "provisional Government of the Republic of Gilgit-Astor", complete with president, Chief Commissioner and Commander-in-Chief.

Brown had to perform a difficult balancing-act between the "Provisional Government" and the tribesmen, while himself administering the area and commanding the Scouts in operations against the Kashmir battalion which was endeavouring to restore the Maharajah's rule. For some weeks there was no word from Peshawar, but at last, to Brown's immeasurable relief, a Pakistani political agent was flown in to take over. The "provisional Government" sank without trace.

It was an extraordinary reversion to the practices and pragmatic loyalties of the European military adventurers in India a century and a half earlier. While conceding that Brown's position was "delicate" (a masterpiece of diplomatic meiosis), the British High Commissioner in Karachi concluded that by his courage and initiative he had restored a very nasty situation and saved the lives of nearly all the Hindus and Sikhs in Gilgit, including the Governor's. It is not given to many young men of 24 so to make history.

CAPT L. MACKESON-SANDBACH

ATM writes:

The death of Captain Lawrie Mackeson-Sandbach will leave a real gap in those circles of forestry and farming in Wales where he had shown leadership and skill, as well as among a large circle of friends.

The selection and growing of suitable varieties of poplar and other trees for forestry was his special contribution towards rectifying the post-war shortage of timber. He was a member of the Council of the Timber Growers' Organisation for many years.

Mackeson-Sandbach was an effective farmer and improved the Sandbach properties in north and central Wales which had been left to his wife, the former Geraldine Sandbach.

He also served on the Representative and Governing Bodies of the Church in Wales and was for many years Vice-Chairman of its Finance Committee.

Lawrie, who served in the Irish Guards, had suffered serious ill health before... since the war; however he... gave up his work...

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THE TIMES Saturday

15-21 DECEMBER 1984 A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE, ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

CUEING UP FOR DRAMATIC EFFECT

Pictures by Brian Harris

Peter Waymark goes backstage to experience the nervous verve of amateur acting

Greasepaint at the ready, the Geoffrey Whitworth Theatre is poised to launch its Christmas play, a comedy called *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime*. Like any amateur company it relies on the dedication of its members to turn out on cheerless nights. One member of the cast reckons the play will cost him £50 in petrol alone.

They have been rehearsing since October and the first full run-through is imminent. It is a very different cast from the one originally chosen after auditions in May. The costumes are not ready, the stage is bare of props and there is no audience to bounce the jokes off.

Advance bookings are going well but there are costs to be met and that means getting bottoms on seats. The break-even point is 85 per cent capacity, and how many professional theatres can boast that? But if the production is good enough, the patrons will come: it is a subtle chemistry of the right play, the right actors and the right director.













Curtain call: (Clockwise from top left) the Dean (Philip Fasham) reads lines; Lord Arthur (Richmond Crowhurst) learns the worst; Podgers the palmist with Lord Arthur; polishing the part; dressing up time; backstage view

THE THEATRE

The Geoffrey Whitworth Theatre, a square, untheatrelike building, stands in the middle of a council estate at Crayford in Kent. Whitworth is a revered name in amateur dramatics, the founder of the British Drama League (now the British Theatre Association) which, since 1919, has been the fount of knowledge and inspiration for companies up and down the land.

The idea of the British Drama League came to him while he was lecturing to munitions workers at Crayford during the First World War. The theatre which bears his name started in a wooden hut on an allotment in 1951. The permanent building that followed, largely paid for by raffles and jumble sales and other fund raising initiatives, was opened by Dame Sybil Thorndike.

The Whitworth does nine plays a year, one a month from October to June. Auditions are held in the previous May and competition is fierce. A couple of years ago, when attendances were falling off, there was a move towards more popular plays; but the current repertoire is ambitious enough to include *The Elephant Man* and *Terra Nova*, about Scott's last expedition to the Antarctic.

"We don't want to sound elitist", says Colin Hill, a school teacher who is directing *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime* "but people who think of amateur dramatics as canvas chairs in draughty church halls are pleasantly surprised when they come here".

THE PLAY

Lord Arthur Savile's Crime, a short story by Oscar Wilde, was adapted for the stage by Constance Cox in the 1950s and has been a favourite with amateur societies ever since. "We wanted something frothy and enjoyable just before Christmas", Colin Hill explains.

It is a mildly black comedy in which a young man about to be married has his palm read and is told he will commit a murder. Trying desperately to dispose of the crime before the great day, he finds that killing people is less easy than he thought, even with the help of a German anarchist.

The practical reason for the popularity of *Lord Arthur* is that five of the ten characters are female and a sixth can be played by either sex. Like most amateur groups, the Whitworth has a preponderance of actresses over actors. Of the 40 to 45 players it can call on, two thirds are women.

"What we particularly lack are *young* men", say Colin Hill. "I put this down to the fact that up to about the age of 30 men are busy trying to establish their careers, while for girls there is not quite the same pressure. After 30 it tends to even up. But since most plays have a male dominated cast, there is always a problem.

"If you are male, over 5ft 8in and your voice reaches the back of the stalls, you can more or less name your part. But an actress who puts in two super performances can find herself in the following season with nothing."

THE ACTORS

The hazard of casting so far ahead is that when the play goes into rehearsal the original choices may no longer be available. People go abroad for the firm or become pregnant or simply cannot spare the time. One woman rehearsing for *Lord Arthur* suddenly found herself switched to a characte, 25 years younger.

Of the eventual cast three are teenagers who have not acted at the Whitworth before, including the leading man, 18-year-old Richmond Crowhurst, who was spotted by Colin Hill playing Sir Toby Belch in a school production of *Twelfth Night*.

It is a big thing for the young man, who is hardly off the stage throughout. He knows that the production may stand or fall by his performance, something he tries not to think about. He has been acting since primary school and it runs in the family – his mother was a dancer and his sister is at drama school. He has thought of taking up the stage as a career; he may yet do so.

At the other end of the scale of experience is Philip Fasham, who plays the hero's uncle, the Dean of Paddington. A retired civil engineer, he has been treading the boards for six decades. "I love it", he says. "What else would I do in the evening?" The only stipulation is that they find him small parts. He is, after all, nearly 83.

Alan Goodwin is the deputy head of Colin Hill's school and only took up acting 18 months ago. He was reared on music hall comics like Albert Modley, Dave Morris and Norman Evans but had no idea of being a performer himself until Hill talked him into it. He started in *Hobson's Choice*, where his North country accent came in handy, and went on to *The Taming of the Shrew*.

Playing the supercilious butler in *Lord Arthur* – and having to lose his accent – he has a part almost as big as the leading man's. Next year he takes on an even greater challenge, for it is he who has landed the Elephant Man. Of the Whitworth he says: "They are ordinary people with an awful lot of talent."

Phil Newton, an amiable six-footer, is the company's natural comedian and is perfectly cast as Winkelkopf, the anarchist. He has been acting ever since he can remember: "It's a social thing. I met my wife in amateur dramatics. I was the lunatic in *Dracula* and she was doing the props." He is having a busy Christmas for, apart from *Lord Arthur*, he is the Demon King in a pantomime. When not on stage, he somehow finds time to be manager of a fruit machine company.

For a Whitworth stalwart Tricia Sutton, playing Lord Arthur's prospective mother-in-law, the first night will be a particular ordeal. In fact, the prospect terrifies her so much that she has ordered all relatives and friends to stay away.

She first appeared at the Whitworth 15 years ago, as a prostitute in Brendan Behan's *The Hostage*. In the early years she could not wait to get on the stage: no nerves at all. But as she has got older and more experienced, so she has become more aware of what can go wrong. "Still, I need fear to do it at all. There has to be a stimulus."

Tricia Sutton makes the point that a play only comes alive with an audience. "It is especially difficult with comedy. You think you know where the laughs are going to come but you can never rely on them. Every audience is different."

SETS AND COSTUMES

Even amateur productions are not cheap. *Lord Arthur* is budgeted at £550 and, when royalties have been paid, will probably come out at about £700. The set is being built, under a master's guiding hand, by local schoolchildren, but to simulate a Victorian drawing room in Grosvenor Square means not just walls and a door but substantial furnishings – a Chesterfield; several chairs, an Indian carpet and velvet curtains.

These are being hired from a firm in Putney and will account for the greater part of the bill – some £400. The Whitworth has a wardrobe department – racks of dresses and army uniforms, sundry wigs, hats and shoes and drawers marked "boleros" and "ladies' nightshirts". But it usually hires a set of costumes, in this case from the Mercury Theatre at Colchester.

The economics of a production are determined by the size of the theatre (150 seats), the number of performances (usually seven) and ticket prices (£1.90 for members, £2.40 for non-members). "Even if we sell out, we won't make much of a profit", says Colin Hill, "and frankly the difference between success and failure is the bar. If we ever lost our liquor licence, we would be right up the creek".

FIRST RUN-THROUGH

A cold Monday evening in November and ice is already forming on the parked cars. Inside it is not much warmer – the heating is off – and people sit huddled in anoraks and scarves and thick jumpers. Perhaps they are thinking they could be snugly at home in front of the telly. But the show must go on.

There is less than a fortnight to curtain up and tonight is the first full run-through. After weeks of work the moment of truth has arrived: lines are muffed, entrances missed and an umbrella which is supposed to open sticks at the vital moment. Colin Hill calls the cast together.

"It's a lot zippier but we still need to take five minutes off it." He tells the leading man to project himself more: "Get those shoulders back, Rich". He tells everyone to show more reaction when they are being spoken to and not to be afraid to send their characters up.

Into the second half and as the evening wears on the strain begins to tell on people doing their best after a day's work. The prompter is kept busy. Phil Newton, the anarchist, suddenly ad-libs a line about Arthur Scargill and reduces the leading man to giggles.

It is 10.30 pm before they are through. The play's Lady Clementina Beauchamp puts on her crash helmet and prepares for a 10-mile journey home on her motorcycle. The others soon drift away; they will be back on Wednesday and Friday and Sunday. "Minor chaos", says Colin Hill, "but let's put it down to the hypothermia."

FINAL REHEARSAL

Tomorrow is opening night and in 12 days the transformation is remarkable. It is not just the addition of the set and the costumes: the cast is polished and confident; or at least this is the impression they give. Quoting the old theatrical maxim that a bad dress rehearsal means a good first night, Philip Fasham says he is frightened it is going so well.

There are the odd fluffs and a bomb that is supposed to be smoking isn't ("OK, it will be tomorrow", shouts the producer). They are short of one prop – a copy of *The Times* for 1890. But the umbrella opens this time.

As the curtain comes down on the first act someone notices a nasty looking stain. A Pinteresque exchange ensues. "Is that paint dropped down the curtain?" "Terrific, just what we need." "Don't think it's paint." "Perhaps it's the grain." "It feels damp." "It's paint." "No, it's just wet." The crisis passes.

The cast takes its bow to the empty seats out front and Colin Hill jumps up on stage for a few final words. "It is almost full tomorrow, thank goodness. You have worked hard and you have deserved it. You are going to make a lot of people happy."

Though the production has tightened up, Hill still thinks the opening could be crisper: "Do try to hit the customers early on. There is a lot you can do by taking up cues quickly." Lastly: "If you make a mistake, for goodness sake go straight on. And if in doubt, mumble."

The playful antidote to British reserve

There are some 18,000 amateur theatre companies in the United Kingdom, performing straight plays, musicals from Sondheim to grand opera, pantomime, cabaret and music hall. Many groups are more than 100 years old; while in this century the biggest expansion occurred just after the two world wars.

In England alone, according to a survey by the Central Council for Amateur Theatre, attendance at amateur performances is about 1.5 million a year. The total membership of amateur groups is estimated at nearly 500,000, of which 260,000 are actors, 135,000 backstage or front of house staff and the remainder associate members.

At the top of the pyramid is the Little Theatre Guild, comprising companies like the Geoffrey Whitworth which own their theatres. Other venues range from professional theatres, which are often used for the staging of musicals, to village, school and church halls.

The focal point for the drama side of amateur theatre is the British Theatre Association at 9 Fitzroy Square, London W1, (01-387 2666). Its library claims to house the largest collection of plays and books on theatre in the world – more than 250,000 items – and it is a mine of information on when plays were first performed, who holds the rights and so on.

Based on requests made to the association's library, the most popular plays currently include: *Confusions* (Alan Ayckbourn), *Habeas Corpus* (Alan Bennett), *The Cherry Orchard* (Chekhov), *Plaza Suite* (Neil Simon), *The Real Inspector Hound* (Tom Stoppard), *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime* (Oscar Wilde/Constance Cox), *Under Milk Wood* (Dylan Thomas), *Abigail's Party* (Mike Leigh), *The National Health* (Peter Nichols) and *An Inspector Calls* (J. B. Priestley).

The leading body for groups primarily concerned with musical productions is the National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA) at 1 Crestfield Street, London WC1 (01-837 5655). The budget for a musical, particularly if it is put on in a professional theatre can be as much as £20,000; and amateur groups are the country's biggest employer of professional musicians in orchestra pits.

The most popular musical for amateurs is *The Merry Widow*, despite its demanding score and need for good voices. Gilbert and Sullivan is always well received and more recent standards include *Oklahoma!*, *My Fair Lady* and *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Amateur drama has been an important breeding ground for professional actors. The late Leonard Rossiter, who did not start acting until he was 28, got his chance with an amateur company in Lancashire. Diana Quick and Michael Gambon both acted at the Geoffrey Whitworth before going on to national prominence.

But for the vast majority it is simply a relaxation. Bill Whitebread, vice-president of NODA and a performer in musicals for 37 years, says it is a peculiarly British thing. "The amateur movement is stronger in the UK than anywhere else and it has fed into the English-speaking world. The British are a rather reserved people but put them on a stage and even the shyest are transformed."

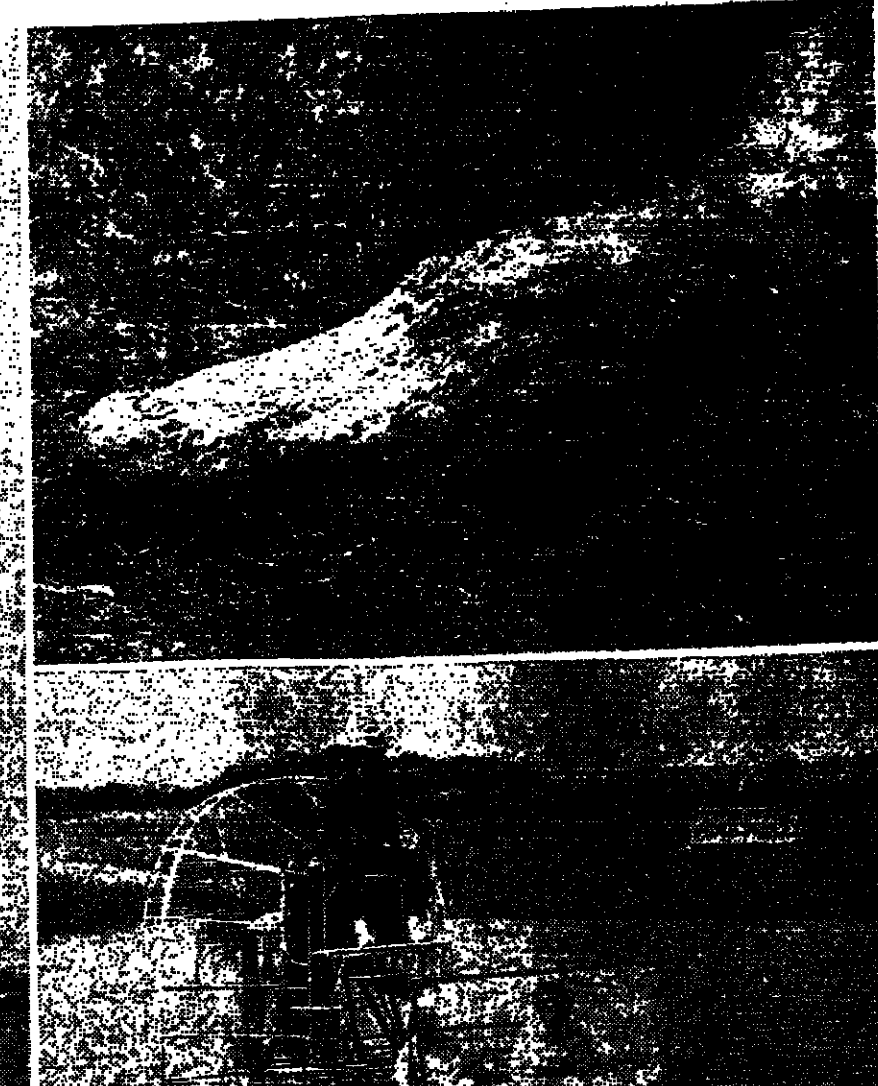
Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

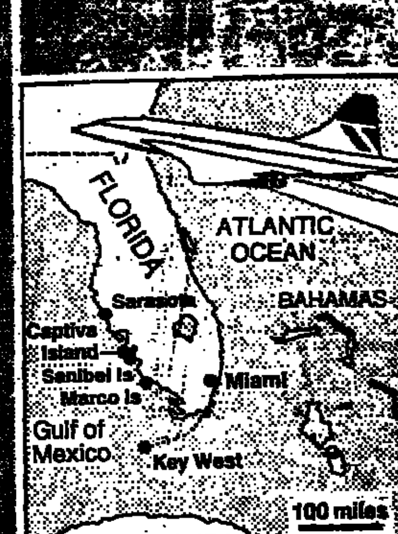
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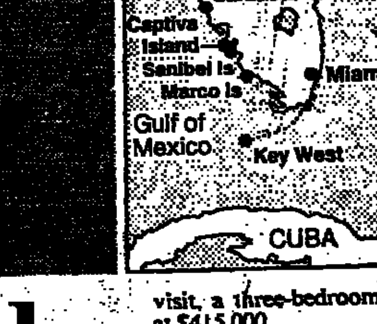
Key to Florida (from the left): Shells from the seashore; Indian Creek, Miami Beach; beast and man on the Everglades; birdlife on Captiva





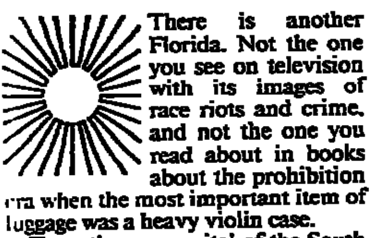






Shedding excess wallet fat in Florida

Paul Routledge discovers that true luxury consists of a flight on Concorde followed by an exploration of an exotic and exclusive archipelago



There is another Florida. Not the one you see on television with its images of race riots and crime, and not the one you read about in books about the prohibition era when the most important item of luggage was a heavy violin case.

True, the sun capital of the South has its problems still, coping with the influx of Cuban and Haitian refugees, and the violent offshoots of a thriving narcotics trade. But Miami is smartening itself up more than somewhat, as Damon Runyon would have said, and the west coast of the state is being rapidly developed as a chic holiday beat.

It is a long way to go: 4,900 miles to the southernmost territory of the United States, where the highest point above sea level is said to be only 26 feet, and much of the "land" disappears beneath the Everglades, a swamp teeming with wild-life across which a slow-moving mass of fresh water drifts to the Gulf of Mexico.

But if you have the money, you can now get there faster, and in just as much style as the best hotel in Miami can offer, by Concorde. BA's supersonic service to Florida cuts two and a half hours off the subsonic flying time, even with a brief refuelling stop in Washington. And for this traveller at least, it is the aviation experience of a lifetime.

The temptation to rhapsodize about the flight and refer you to the Florida Tourist Office for the rest is strong. In the interests of fairness, it must be resisted, up to a point anyway.

Concorde is a different order of air travel, and this is how you can tell even from the ground. The citizen of Miami is pretty blasé about aeroplanes. With more than a thousand flights a day through his airport, he has good reason to be. But he still drives out in his hundreds, with the kids and Mom in the back, to park near the runway for a brief glimpse of the pride of British engineering on take-off.

There I go with the chauvinism. Concorde brings on an unexpectedly vigorous attack of the complaint. It manifests itself in an irrepressible desire to brag about British technology to American fellow passengers. They cheerfully put up with it, agreeing that it is "one helluva plane".

And that's not just because they are a captive audience. Riding is better than watching, naturally. It is shameless luxury, from the Buck's Fizz served in the special departure lounge at Heathrow to the last, least wise, nip of Stolichnaya (properly chilled and drunk from glasses cooled on dry ice, of course) before you land.

In between, there is food and wine the like of which you would hesitate to waste on lunch with a politician, even if he does come up with the story. Fresh Maine lobster washed down with Puligny Montrachet 1980 ... you know the kind of thing, they don't mess about up there.

The Machmeter on the cabin bulkhead logs Concorde's progress through the sound barrier as it moves up to a cruising altitude of 58,000ft and a speed of 1,340mph – or Mach 2, twice the speed of sound. There is a mild kick as the engine reheats accelerate you through Mach 1, which could be mistaken for the impact on stomach of your first Stolichnaya, otherwise the sensations are those of normal flight.

But your eyes flick repeatedly back to that oversized digital watch that flicks up and down with the speed – 2.1 Mach, then 2.0, 1.9, back up to 2.1 as if it were Russians marking an American iceskater. Irrationally, I felt mildly cheated when the Machmeter tripped below two. Peering out through the tiny porthole, you can clearly see the curvature of the earth, while above is the dark blue fringe of space.

Fortunately, Florida hoteliers are making a very big effort to convince you that you haven't actually come down to earth with a bump. The first thing you get after checking into your room at the $30m Grand Bay Hotel, Miami, is a bottle of champagne, courtesy of the management. What to do with it after six hours of life à la Concorde is another matter.

I gave mine back to the waiter on condition he showed me how to operate the drive-in movie masquerading as a television set in the corner of the room. My suite was one of those simple things, just the one storey – unlike some of the two-floor numbers decked out like the pad of a Sultan. You could be welcoming your wife on the sixth floor while your valet ushers your girlfriend out on the seventh.

Travel notes

British Airways flies Concorde to Miami from London and return on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. The return journey costs £2,724. Further information: The United States Travel and Tourism Administration, 22 Sackville Street, London W1 (439 7433) and Florida's Island Coast, 9 Longbridge Walk, Horley, Surrey.

Coming practically straight from the miners' picket-line (covering the strike, you understand) it was culture shock in Coconut Grove. And there was more, a lot more, to come. The Americans are a very open people. They like you to see everything. So, it is straight out on Highway 41 to the west coast, where those who have done well out of Reagonomics come to shed some of the excess wallet fat.

Mention the "Keys", and most people think of the string of islands that tail out into the Gulf of Mexico south of Florida, ending in Key West, where the Cuban expatriates can almost spit in Castro's eye. But the less well-known archipelago that runs up the other side of the state is making a discreet bid for the right kind of tourist.

First port of call is Marco Island, on the coastline where the publicists in the next county promise "no native unrest here". It's not surprising; they can't afford to stay overnight. A penthouse suite at the Marriott will set you back $650 a night in the high season – January to March, when the rich refugees trek south for the sun. And what do they talk about in the 15-seat *alfresco* jacuzzi? Business, of course. But they fish too, and the flora along much of the three-mile white beach is protected.

Nature conservancy is very much a theme of these up-market holiday centres. Further up the coast are the islands of Sanibel and Captiva, where the J. N. "Ding" Darling 5,000 acre nature reservation provides nesting grounds for herons, egrets, pink flamingo, and roseate spoonbills. Other exotic species that have reservations here include the Well-Heeled Tourist; he doesn't have to leave the comfort of the harbourside bar to indulge an interest in wild life – the manatees surface regularly in the yacht basin.

Further out to sea, the American dream of riches and success finds its perfect expression on Useppa island. The entire 100-acre island is a private club: entrance fee $5,000 with annual dues of $480. That initial investment allows you to make an occasional landfall, and to rent one of the charming cottages for up to a fortnight. And, after discreet inquiries into your social and financial standing (six-figure annual salary, minimum), you might just be able to buy a property. Only one home was on the market during our visit, a three-bedroom villa offered at $415,000.

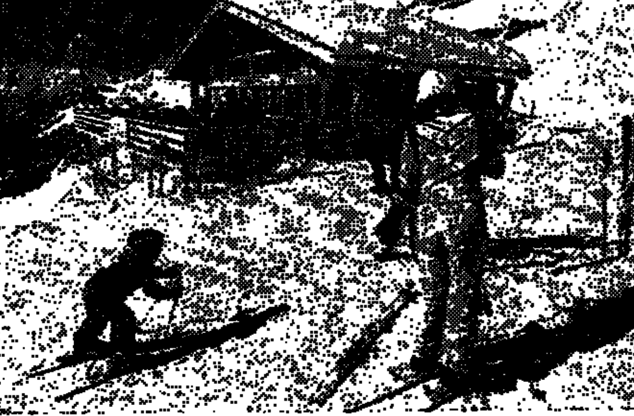
Many of the Florida keys have a fascinating history, if occasionally of somewhat dubious provenance, and Useppa is no exception. First settled by the Caloosa Indians about 3,500 BC, it came into the hands of a local pirate José Caspar about 1765. Here he imprisoned his favourite mistress Joseffa de Mayorca, and the island's present name is thought to be a corruption of her name. A Chicago streetcar tycoon bought Useppa in 1894, "attracted by her high elevation and lush tropical vegetation". The island reaches a height of 35ft above sea level, positively Himalayan by Florida standards.

However, you should watch your step on Useppa. Quite literally. Otherwise (like me) you will fetch up in Fort Myers Community Hospital after falling into a sandpit; the island has more of them than it has thoughtful hosts. The ambulance bill alone is $155, and not even the attentions of Dr Carver compensate for that.

If you have to convalesce, there can be few better places to do it than the Longboat Key Club just further north on the fringe of Sarasota Bay. This is the site of yet another luxury resort, private club and residential community developed and operated by the Arvida Corporation. The club (of which you become a temporary member for rates varying from $80 to $325 a night) is within a wildlife sanctuary, and egrets patrol the beachfront ceaselessly.

Off-piste rewards without the risks

Barrie Smith



Thrills for the young learner at Val d'Isère

Controlled adventure for grown ups is a capacious niche in the travel/leisure industry. Flying and motor sports clubs have long exploited the region where thrills demand skills, and now winter sports holiday operators are beginning to offer more than bed, board and someone to sort out ski hire and lift tickets.

When skiing was a pastime of the wealthy, and indeed where it still is, private guide instructors were and are the norm. But at 170 Swiss francs a day, the rate for a sought-after guide in Zermatt last season, they are well above the means of the average packaged skier.

Ski school, one answer for those who do not want to ski alone and hope to improve their technique, is too regimented and restricting for many people once they have mastered the basics. So specialist skiing operators introduced ski guides to familiarize their guests with the resorts. Recently the bait has become even more interesting with coaching in advanced skiing techniques (Peter Stuyvesant Travel), off-piste powder skiing weeks (John Morgan), and learn to heli-ski holidays (Powder Skiing in North America).

Taking a different tack, the French tour operator Club Mediterranée set off in another direction last season with a skiing excursion called La Transtarentaise. I sampled this eight-day thrash round the edges and through the middle of eight well known resorts in the French Alps – Val d'Isère, Tignes, La Plagne, Les Arcs, Courchevel, Meribel, Les Menuires and Val Thorens – and enjoyed the skiing hugely.

For those of us who did not start skiing when we were three and a half, or even younger, and who have not been brought up in the mountains or trained in their capricious ways, bumbling off the marked ski areas can be a risky business. With a good guide who knows the way and understands the limits of your skiing abilities and stamina, off-piste skiing is the greatest fun.

The average age of the group of journalists I skied with was noticeably younger than that of the parallel party of mainly French skiers who had been typical, we were told, of the middle aged clientele this holiday attracted last season. Our guide for the week, Patrick Chauvin, had a happy knack of inspiring such confidence at weak moments that I found myself following him obediently down the sort of slopes I would have baulked at in other company.

A week of blazing sun was a bonus, even if it meant that much of the off-piste territory we skied over was anything but untracked virgin snow. This was ski touring in luxury. There were plenty of early starts, and long lunches which allowed the legs to revive or die, depending on what effect stopping has on you.

The baggage led a life of its own, being transported between overnight stops by unseen means, and only twice in the week did we have to take off our skis for a short bus ride between resorts. Accommodation in Les Arcs and La Plagne was in the clubs: in Tignes and Les Menuires shared rooms in typically cramped modern ski resort apartments were the norm. Food enjoys a high priority in the Club Med scheme of things and it was good.

The feeling of covering the country on your own two feet was good too, and there were many of those moments on the top of mountains when one stood in solemn awe of the beauty of the scene.

Shona Crawford Poole



This season Club Méditérranee has three "Circuitski" routes, La Transtarentaise, La Vanoise (Les Trois Vallées, Les Arcs and La Plagne), and Les Cimes de l'Isére, (Tignes, Val d'Isère, Les Arcs and La Plagne). L Transtarentaise costs from £471 inclusive of train from Paris, transfers, accommodation, meals, lift passes, guide, baggage transfers and use of Club Méditérranee's facilities and entertainment in the resorts. Further details are available from Club Méditérranee, 106-108 Brompton Road, London SW3 (581 4766). Peter Stuyvesant Travel, 35 Alfred Place, London WC1 (631 3278). John Morgan Travel, Meon House, College Street, Petersfield, Hampshire (0730 68621). Powder Skiing in North America, 61 Doneralle Street, London SW6 6EW (736 8191).

A healthy diet of strudels and style



The frost lies thick on the hills of Buda. From here, in the sharp winter sun, you can see the bluish stretch of the Danube and the imperial boulevards of Pest – the other half of Hungary's capital – in the distance beyond.

Wooded paths lead to the top of the Buda Hills, as does the Pioneer Railway. It's worth letting the train take the strain just to see the way it's "manned". The smart stationmasters; signalmen and conductors are all children – awarded their jobs on a fortnightly rota in return for good schoolwork. Only the engine-drivers are adults.

Near the last station, in open countryside, there is a stable with 30 splendid Hungarian horses. An English-speaking instructor takes beginners for quiet rides while there are livelier hacks for experts.

Once you have whipped up an appetite, you can taxi downhill to Gerbeaud's for strudels or chestnut mousse, a marzipan Father Christmas or some creamy, wobbly cake. Gerbeaud is Budapest's most famous coffee house with all the overblown drapery, the flock and stucco of Vienna at the turn of the century.

It was from the Austrians – who dominated their neighbours for more than 200 years – that the Hungarians acquired their taste for rich food. They merely added paprika and garlic. Strings of those, bright red and white, festoon every market stall – yet the restaurant cuisine can be surprisingly bland. I would have relished more seasoning and less cream and fat. Hungarian wines, though, are good; service is quick and attentive; while the inevitable but vibrant gipsy music makes dining out as cheerful as it's cheap.

For British visitors, everything in Budapest is a bargain. Opera tickets, for example, start at 15p rising to £3.30 for the best seat at a gala performance. In September, the Opera House celebrated its centenary and reopened after four years of painstaking restoration. The marble staircase, carved oak doors and velvet, burgundy seats revive the era and aura of opulence: a fit setting for the stylish operas, ballets, concerts that the house presents.

One can also hear religious works – Gregorian masses, organ recitals – every Sunday morning in the packed Matthias Church. This towers gracefully over the Castle district of Buda – a long, narrow plateau of paved streets with medieval houses, secluded courtyards and several intriguing museums.

For charm and beauty, the only place that surpasses this corner of Budapest is Szentendre, a small town 12 miles up the Danube. On all the tourist itineraries, Szentendre is a higgledy-piggledy collection of Baroque churches and pink and yellow houses, seemingly frozen in the 18th century. Indeed, the only sign of modern times is the name, Marx tér, for the cobbled main square.

Julia Rona





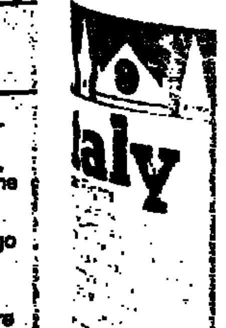
Trading on tradition: A typical market stall in Budapest

But communism in Hungary hasn't the grim aspects westerners tend to associate with life behind the Iron Curtain. The hotels are luxurious, the streets shiny with flashing billboards. Nobody is at the Museum of the History of the Hungarian Working Class; they are all in the cafés or bookshops, letting off steam in the Turkish baths or skating in the park.

Go there in the morning when the lake is not so crowded and it's easier to hire skates. Toddlers in gaudy bobble-hats skid and tumble round the ice; in the background, rising from the banks, is Castle Vajdahunyad – a folly of domes and turrets. The whole scene is wonderfully photogenic.

So, too, is the folkdancing that continues apace throughout the year and is therefore a regular part of any packaged winter break. The useful thing about the organized tours is that you have an English-speaking guide to show you round. Ours imparted some fascinating information. Did you know, for instance, that Tony Curtis was Hungarian? Or that there are a hundred hot springs in Budapest? In one respect, at least, these must be singularly effective. The hippos – who use the thermal pool in the zoo – breed most successfully.

Cindy Selby



Malev Air Tours organize three-night holidays in Budapest for £215. The price includes flights, accommodation and meals at the five-star Hyatt Hotel and some guided excursions. Booking is through Malev Airlines at 10 Vigo Street, London WIX 2EA. Worldwide Travel and Danube Travel also offer Budapest city breaks – and their brochures are available in most travel agencies. A visa is required for entry into Hungary and can be obtained, for £5, from the Hungarian Consulate, 35b Eaton Place, London SW1.





Beryl Downing on luxury presents

VALUES

Les Hors d'Oeuvres

MILLE FEUILLES FARCIES
Featherlight layers of embroidered gold lace tulle on a layette basket. Part of a range of frothy babygoods at The White House, 51/52 New Bond Street, London W1. Also included: a reproduction of a Victorian metal swinging cot, trimmed with the same tulle, £2,500, a Victorian-style Mama doll £69 (75p p&p) and padded coathangers £10 each (40p p&p).
£195

SOUFFLE EN BOITÉ
Delicately prepared silk camisole and French knickers in presentation box. White or pink, sizes 10 to 16 at selected Marks & Spencers.
£22.50



MEDAILLONS GARNIS
Finest Highland-bred "sporran" buttons. A set of six in silver and garnet by Harrison Young at Charles de Temple, 52 Jermyn Street, London SW1.
£150

Nos Plats du Jour

VOL AU VENT DU CHEF
Morning fresh from France, a rare car mascot by René Lalique, designed around 1930. At Saville-Edells, 25 Walton Street, London SW3, where there is a selection of 20 original Lalique pieces from £150.
£5,800



The Café du Temps presents its seasonal compliments to its loyal customers and is proud to offer the chef's selection of last-minute luxury delicacies for those who have been unable to digest until now the idea of shopping for presents and who are dreaming of a carte blanche Christmas.

PETITE BARQUE A MA FACON
Home-cured stem dinghy, the Granta Kayel 290 is in kit form to build during the long winter evenings. Three versions: hull only for rowing £129.60, half-decked for fishing £179.20, with sails £349.60. From Granta Boats, 29 Great Whyte, Ramsey, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire; delivered by road line or can be collected up to Dec 21.
From £129.60

BOEUF BOURGIGNON
Richly flavoured hip flask, 8oz, smothered in burgundy cow hide. By the newest quality leather shop in London, Gold Pfeil, 107 Jermyn Street, W1, which specializes in hand-finished leather goods, analine dyed so that the colour goes right through.
£27

PLAT DE LA REINE
Smoked over oak to a crispy charcoal covering, a historic Penny Black stamp in a presentation wallet containing a short history of the stamp and a numbered certificate of authenticity. From Stanley Gibbons Promotions, Church Hatch, Market Place, Ringwood, Hampshire (04254 2363).
£95

ENTREES AU CHOIX
Prepared to your taste – theatre tickets for Cats, 42nd Street, Starlight Express or any other show no one can get into until March. Membership of Organization Unlimited gives you the chance to obtain the impossible – from qualified plumbers, to the ideal flat or office. They try not to say no if you give them enough time, but if you want a baby African elephant tomorrow you may have to put up with an Indian one. Details from 117 Sydney Street, London SW3 (01-351 0295). Of course you pay over the odds – two theatre seats will cost £50 – but membership would be a nice gift.
£28.75



Nos Desserts



TUILES DOREES
Delicious melange of crisply carved jasper with gold chasing and enamelling – a rare desk set by 19th-century French goldsmith, Jean Valentin Morel. Paperknife, seal, pencil, quill and its sharpener at I. J. Mazure, The Silver Vaults, Vault 9, 53 Chancery Lane, London WC2.
£37,500





DELICES PARFUMEES
A lavish creation, Amouage, the newest luxury scent by Guy Robert, in refillable gold-plated solid silver flasks, mosque shape for women (perfume) £660, khanjar dagger shape for men (eau de toilette) £542. Both 50ml. Other sizes at Asprey, 165 New Bond Street, W1 and Harrods.
Selon grosseur

Les Friandises



Mouth-watering crackerful of chocolate eclairs 95p, transparent pack of chocolate-covered brazil nuts £2.15, porcelain money-box delivery van full of children's sweets £3.99, all by Thorntons, nationwide branches; or hand-made Swiss chocolates – 24 truffles, £5.75 – delivered for you by your local branch of Safeway (fill in a form in the store; delivery in four days); casket in the most elegantly understated claret-coloured fabric with gold blocked lettering – contains 2lb assorted chocolates, £17 – or Vienna Almonds with a layer of chocolate under the sugar coating £1.95 200g pack, both by Bendicks at 55 Wigmore Street, London W1, 20 Royal Exchange, London EC3, and countrywide stockists.

EATING OUT

Crowding out the office party set

As the clutches of red-faced, glassy-eyed business people spilling out of restaurants testify, this is the season of "festive lunches". With this in mind, we look at assorted venues for that impromptu meal

The organized office-party is only the tip of a very large iceberg in terms of Christmas celebrations. It is also the time for old friends or business contacts to give each other lunches and dinners as the "end of term" spirit provokes an almost hysterical urge to make merry.

A simple solution to finding a table at short notice, especially given the flexible time-keeping which tends to develop around now, is to escape the central area for less frenzied fringes. The functional-sounding, but pleasant **Filling Station Bistro** is a good example of what can be found with a little travel.

With a bistro on the ground-floor and a downstairs wine bar, it has a cosy atmosphere despite its simple furnishings.

The menu is straightforward bistro stuff – just what you could turn out at home, really, but well-executed and, in the main, reasonably-priced. Starters include the modish camembert fritters with redcurrant jelly, a chicken liver and walnut pâte, courgettes stuffed with mince and onions and a pleasant bacon and spinach salad.

The main courses follow similar *cuisine bourgeoise* lines – good rack of lamb with rosemary and garlic (£5.25), whole poussin stuffed with thyme (£4.50), a couple of steaks, escalope and a rather ordinary cod steak. Accompanying vegetables are well-cooked – sprouts, courgettes, roast potatoes – but £1.30 per selection seems a bit steep. Otherwise, expect a bill for about £10 a head.

In the same area, but a notch or two higher in quality and price, **Carlo's Place** offers a plant-festooned window, an array of cuckoo clocks and a curious network of gold-coloured ceiling pipes as testimony to its distinctive but homely style. A set lunch is offered at £5.95 and they will also be serving a Christmas menu for the holiday period.

Otherwise, sit back in the cosy, atmospheric dining-room and enjoy such strapping dishes as côte de porc hongroise (with cream and paprika, £5.95), carre d'agneau au roquefort (£6.95), roast guinea-fowl or duck with ginger.

For a cheerful Italian lunch, **Romano's** in Maida Vale is usually a good bet. Recently redecorated and re-equipped (they can now serve capuccino at last), it retains its bustling efficiency, both in the kitchen and "out front". A largely familiar Italian card has the occasional flourish – Dover sole in a bisque d'homard, brandy and mushroom sauce, fillet of veal with brandy, cream and mushrooms.

For those who can't escape the city centre, there are still one or two relatively unknown venues which could repay a late booking. **Frith's**, a hi-tech style French restaurant in the heart of Soho, is earning itself a good reputation and though lunches are reflecting this growing popularity, evenings can be quieter.

Behind the venetian blinds lurks a brightly-decorated, glossy operation with distinct flair and very reasonable set meals at £9.50.





Frith's. Drawing by Francis Mosley

Stan Hey

The Filling Station Bistro, 144 Wandsworth Bridge Road, London SW6 (736 2418), Mon-Fri 12.30-2.30pm, Mon-Sat 7.30-11.30pm.
Carlo's Place, 855 Fulham Road, London SW6 (736 4507), open Mon-Fri noon-3pm; Mon-Sat to 7-11pm.
Romano's, 30 Clifton Road, London W9 (286 2266), open Mon-Sat noon-2.30pm and 6-11pm.
Frith's, 14 Frith Street, London W1 (439 3370), open Mon-Fri, noon-2.30pm: Mon-Sat 6-11.30pm.

Trailing plants

IN THE GARDEN

To suit you right down to the ground

Trailing plants are invaluable for disguising the hard edges of a container or greenhouse bench, and they add depth to any arrangement. There is a wide range available, many of which demand different growing conditions, but one of the secrets of success with any indoor plant is to avoid large variations in temperature – that is why heated greenhouses are ideal.

The most suitable temperature range for temperate plants is 55-60°F, and they should not suffer a variation greater than 10°F. The temperature should not drop below 45°F, and it is better to err on the side of warmth than cold – the maximum temperature acceptable is about 75°F.

Some of the plants to consider could include *Achimenes*, called the hot water plant in allusion to its liking for warm water. It does not trail far, but will fall from the top of the basket to below the base, and flowers well throughout the summer.

Hoyas are lovely trailing plants; they flower well and like nothing better than to be in a hanging basket, away from direct sunlight, in a room or a greenhouse. The best for this situation is *Hoya carnosa*, which, kept well fed and moist, will grow to more than 10ft.

An unusual plant is *Ceropegia Woodii*, which has very thin strands of growth and fleshy, heart-shaped leaves. It flowers in the autumn with tubular, fleshy pink flowers. A temperate plant, it likes to be in good light, warm but not above about 65°F and will be happy for a number of growing seasons in a 3in pot.

One of the most brilliant of all trailing plants is *Columnea*, which produces masses of bright rich red tubular flowers in the spring. A true trailer with dense foliage habit, its dark green leaves are packed close together on the stems. *Columnea Banksii* is the best one to grow, liking a temperature of 60-70°F. It should be kept in light shade and during the winter months it is vital the pots are kept on the dry side. Moisture and feeding are required in the summer.

Of the many foliage plants which are good for bench edges, *Tradescantia fluminensis* (Wandering Jew), is a good plant, with attractive silver variegations on the light green leaves. Not a long trailer, it will fall about 9-10in fairly easily. The form "Quicksilver" is the best, needing good light but no overwatering. *Zebrina pendula* is similar to *Tradescantia* and mixes well with it. It has a purple reverse to the leaves and purple stripes on the upper blade.

Plectranthus oertendahlii has a dreadful name, but it is a good trailer which produces off-white flowers in the autumn. The rounded leaves are enhanced with veins picked out in a lighter green than the blade, and the stems are inclined to be square. I like *P coleoides* which is of the same family but has leaves which are variegated with pale creamy yellow. This will grow at least 6ft straight downwards.

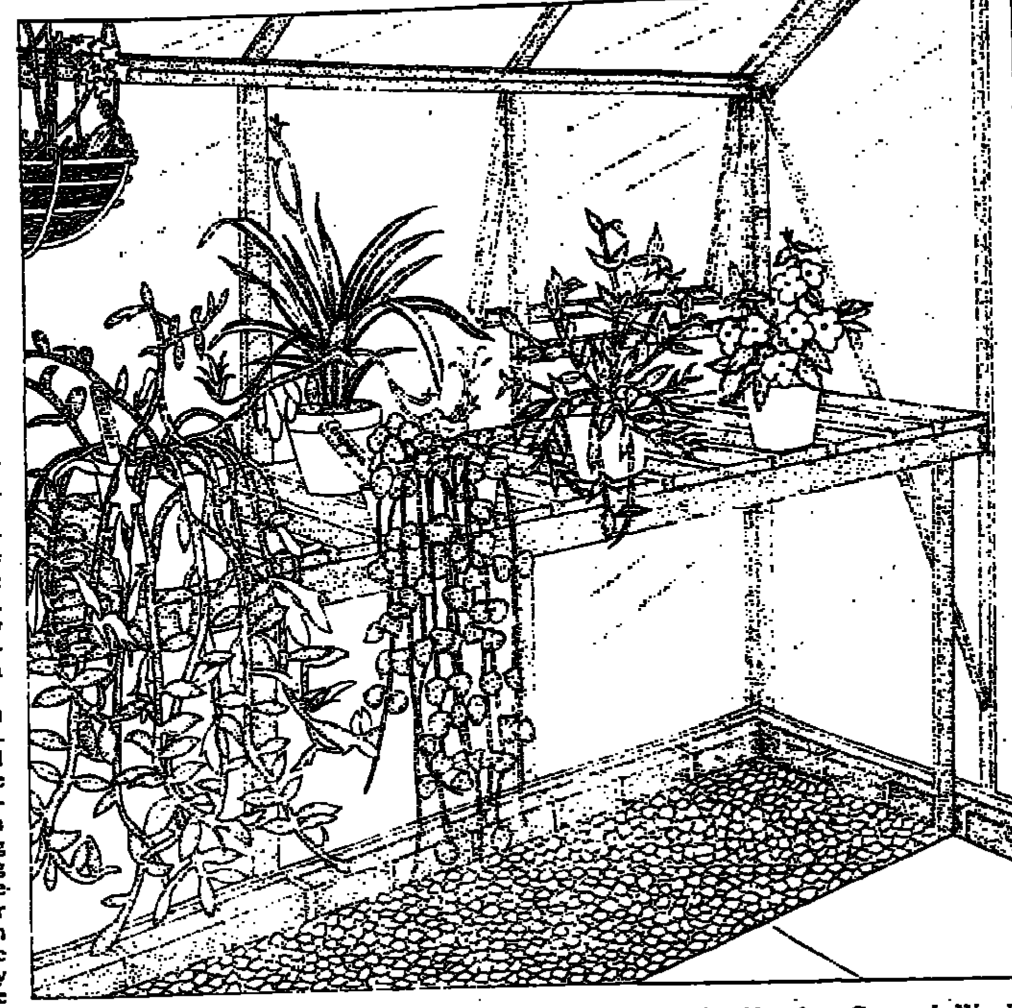
Plants with variegated foliage which are ideal for bench edges or for the base of planted containers are the Fittonias. *Fittonia argyroneura verschaffeltii* has the common name of the herringbone plant, alluding to the way the veins are picked out in a rich red. It is difficult to grow well, needing warmth and moisture in summer although by now the pots should be dried off a little. *Fittonia argyroneura nana* (snakeskin plant) is, as its name suggests, smaller than the type and its leaves are picked out in silver.

Spider plant is the name given to a number of plants but *Clorophytum comosum variegatum* is the one usually associated with it. It has grass-like leaves which are light green in colour but with a band of gold at the centre. Leaves can grow to 18in and then arch downwards giving the whole plant a hairy look.

It is the flower stalks which make this plant different however. The flowers are produced in the normal way and are white, but not very eye-catching. Plantlets are formed on these flower stalks which bring the stalk down to a trailing position as they grow. In some cases these plants can trail for 2ft or more. Regular potting on is required if the plants are to be kept in good condition: they need light and should never be allowed to become dry.

Ashley Stephenson

Drawing by Jill Feld



Live-in greenery: from left to right, Hoya carnosa, Columnea Banksii, spider plant, Ceropegia Woodii, Tradescantia and Achimenes

Winter planting

Deciduous trees and shrubs lose their leaves through the winter, and it is at this time that they can be moved or transplanted. Plants which retain their leaves over the winter are best left undisturbed until the roots become active again. Preparation is important so don't just dig a hole and pop the plant in. Plants being moved at any time suffer from damage and the good gardener takes this into account. Check to ensure drainage is good. Gardens are usually well drained, and although there may be some surface compaction this is easily rectified. Plants respond to well aerated soils. If you dig a hole which almost immediately fills up with water this soil should be drained. Ground which has been well worked for a number of years is probably in good heart and there will be less need to fortify it. Poor soils should always have well-rotted farmyard manure added to the bottom spit. If farmyard manure is not available try well-rotted organic matter. Dig a hole big enough to take the roots without cramping and lay the roots out much as they were before being lifted. Fill in the soil round the roots gradually and consolidate as you go. The plant should be a little deeper than it was in the nursery. Firm in well.

Winter cheer

No garden should be dull in winter. There are plenty of plants which should make it a pleasure to visit a winter garden, and choosing them for their colour and form is a continuing exercise.

To attract insects and ensure they get enough pollen, winter flowers are usually scented. But there are exceptions and Fatsia is one of them.

Fatsia japonica is an evergreen shrub which could almost be classed as a small tree because it sometimes grows to 15ft. It flowers in late autumn and early winter, and makes a good garden plant as it will produce flowers even in a lot of shade. Indeed, to do well the plant needs shade, although it will grow passably in sunny sites as long as the ground does not get too dry. I like them to see them beneath a canopy of large trees where they have good air circulation but are protected from the midday sun.

F japonica flowered early this year and is still in flower – but early frosts will attack the blooms, so they should be planted in sheltered positions.

Soil conditions are not demanding; in fact, I have found that this plant will grow in any soil except a dry one. Ideally, it should be peaty or at least full of organic matter. It is vital that the soil should be able to hold moisture.

Individual leaves can grow to as much as 15in and almost as long, and they are a rich, dark glossy green. I know no other hardy evergreen with leaves so large. The white flowers of *F japonica* shine out from the shade of these dark leaves, growing like white drumsticks from panicles.

F japonica can be grown as an indoor pot plant. There is also a variegated form, *F japonica variegata*, with white-blotched leaves, and another variety, the *aurea*, which has golden markings. Plants cost about £6.50 each.

A taste of honeysuckle

Most gardeners think of honeysuckle as a climbing plant, but the shrub varieties have much to commend them – especially at this time of year.

Many of the shrubs are coming into flower now. Although it is normally assumed that they will tolerate the cold, they can be badly affected by a hard frost.

Site and soil conditions are most important. Soil should not be too rich – a good garden soil with added humus should encourage growth. Try to ensure the plants are sited where drainage is good. Heavy wet soils should be avoided if plants are in exposed areas; too much moisture during the winter causes a great many plant deaths.

Lonicera fragrantissima provides lovely winter colour. This plant will grow up to 6ft high and almost as wide. Noted for its creamy white scented flowers, which are now open, it should be sited close to a walk, on a wall or similar position. Because it is a partial evergreen it should only be planted in the autumn or the spring if not in containers. *L standishii* is similar to *L fragrantissima* but does not make such a big bush and flowers a little



Winter white: Lonicera fragrantissima

earlier. As a rule it is best during February and March. *L x purpusii* is a hybrid between *fragrantissima* and *standishii*. It is more deciduous than either of its parents and its flowers are nearer to white than the parents, and well scented.

L nitida Baggesons Gold, is a gem. It has golden foliage which retains its colour through the winter. Small leaves on a low growing bush make it ideal for a low hedge, but it must be planted in full sun. Flowers are produced, but these are insignificant and usually seen in early summer.

L pileata produces low hummocks of growth, and this makes it worthy of consideration as a ground coverer. Leaves resemble box, but it is a better shrub and has a better habit for garden situations. There are insignificant flowers in May and June.

None of the varieties are worth growing just for their fruit, which is usually very disappointing.

Plants will cost about £5 each, and can be obtained from Hilliers of Winchester, Notcutts of Woodbridge, Suffolk, or Bridgemere Nurseries, Bridgemere, Cheshire.

SOFTWARE

A taste for console and cold steel

The boy, nearly four, has been working all week outside the study door. We used to call it his "banging", but it's got rather grand of late, and now he has made a respectable fist of chiselling a hole in a piece of block board. And then he comes in and uses the BBC Micro: *Workshop* (Acornsoft) is his favourite bit of software. A neat idea: the screen shows "shelves" with shapes on. Pick one, and the shape is surrounded by symbols for cutting, repainting, rotating, and so on: a couple of judicious pressings and he can join, dissect, drill his shape, and return it to base, before selecting another.

I think, as a neanderthal, that I most like him when he's at his "proper" jobs, though his thumbs now bear both the marks of sucking and of mis-aimed one-inch steel. But this computer business won't go away and, besides, I've swallowed all the guff about logic skills, and computer fluency.

Only goody-goody software tapes come into the house. I'm hoping not merely that the children will acquire a taste for these electronic gizmos, but will also become proof against the more vulgar video-games. And so, I set them up with *Learn About Words* (Goldstar) in which a loathsome (but well received) creature called Fred the Flea takes the teenies through their spelling paces.

Sounds grand, but actually it only demands that you copy the letters occurring, under some rather weird pictures of "skirt", "pail", and so on. Later, if you've learned your stuff and can spell the word without prompting, you can play quite a lively maze game.

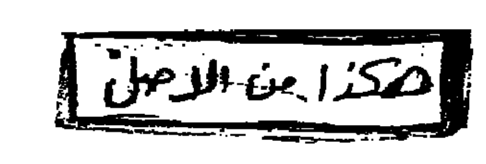
The nearly-four-year-old enjoys (as has his sister before him: but she's keener on "real" writing at the moment) almost all the Good Housekeeping tapes. Here, Mr T (an electric splodge who waves a bit if you get things right) has his *Money Box*, *Measuring Games*, *Number Games*, and many more.

For older children, who know their times tables, there's a splendid thing called *Number Chaser* (ASK/Acornsoft). It is a bit too arcade-game in style, but has at the core of it a clever notion of scoring you according to how often you can pick the closest of four answers to a multiplication sum: do it well, and the program cranks up the awkwardness. It doesn't give the correct answer as an option (that one might know from classroom chanting of the tables), but the ability to assess proximities and orders of magnitude at speed.

With most of the games, the colours are lurid and the sound intrusive. Then I found the sound-off mode. But we're stuck with what may be the inevitable unsubtlety of the machinery, though I suspect it's the old predilection that people who do things for children have for screaming pink – shared by the youngsters, but not by fogeys such as this one.

These programmes come dear at £9.95 (*Workshop and Number Chaser* are also available on disc at £11.50) and would be better used on a borrowing and renting system. Their potential is mostly too quickly exhausted to warrant buying them. Though I'm delighted the kids have played, and will play, with them, they have made me see how inherently ugly images on a VDU are. One never tires of blank paper and a jam jar full of freshly sharpened crayons and pencils: one rapidly tires of the monitor. Long may the boy want the feel of cold steel *and* the console.

Richard North





FAMILY LIFE

Capital treats for children at Christmas

Two requests prompted me to write this column. The first was made by my sister-in-law in Yorkshire who brought her two young children to stay for the first time, wanting to show them the capital "without completely exhausting the shoe leather or my temper in the process". The second came in a letter from a lady returning to England after a 10-year absence. She too wanted to "do" London and asked for advice on outings for her offspring.

Bearing in mind that this is December, when days are short and temperatures far from mellow, and that I assume any parent visiting the city with children will know or be told about the lights, the tree in Trafalgar Square and the carols, the Tower of London, Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey, St Paul's and the major stores, I have chosen several outings which, accompanied by sundry children, I have enjoyed in the past two years.

Hard by Buckingham Palace are the **Royal Mews** where the Queen's horses and many royal and state carriages are kept. The courtyards and stables are redolent of a bygone age but as you would imagine, immaculately kept. You can see most of the carriages, landaus, (and a sledge designed by Prince Albert) at close quarters. The Gold Coach is roped off and there are usually so many people wanting to look at it that you have to keep on the move. But the horses are magnificent – all named – and may be seen to great advantage on a hoary, breath-snorting afternoon.

I have always found the coachmen and other members of staff friendly, approachable and more than happy to answer the kind of questions young children ask. There is much to see and the State Harness Room and Saddlery are as fascinating to young equestrians as the Crown Jewels to a magpie.

Talking of jewels, if you have made the almost obligatory visit to the Tower of London and if you have a head for heights, then I would suggest taking the children to the **Tower Bridge Walkway** whence you have unrivalled views of the Thames.

Children can learn about the history of the bridge and how it functions, see steam-driven hydraulic engines and on most occasions exhibitions of art (it is a regular display area for the prize-winning entries from the Cadbury's National Exhibition of children's art and poetry). There is also a museum on the south side of the bridge. You won't have too far to walk from there to the **Museum of London** where the main attractions are the thematic displays of London's history from Roman times to the present day. With models and reconstructions of rooms illustrating the city as it was in medieval, Tudor and Stuart eras, the museum provides a good introduction to understanding how the capital evolved.

The model of the Great Fire of London, with special sound and lighting effects, is always popular with children.

Nearby at the **Barbican Centre**, two exhibitions have been mounted for the Christmas period (until January 7), both suitable for very young children. "Folk Nativities of the World" includes one hundred different crib settings (part of Countess Maria Hubert von Stauffer's impressive collection). "Christmas by E. J. Taylor" is an exhibition of five shop-window displays, last seen in Tiffany's, Manhattan, by an American sculptor and author of children's books who now lives in England. The tableaux depict the elves who work for Father Christmas and the toys they make. The Barbican Centre is often criticized for its poor access but it is well worth visiting and there are many other activities going on there during the holidays.

I hesitated before suggesting the Science, **Natural History** and **British Museums** partly because these need little introduction, and also because they are all very crowded during the school holidays. But visit them you must because they are among the best in the world.

It is worth heeding the advice given me by the director of education at the Science Museum: not to attempt to see everything but to select areas of special interest, see those and then go home. Trying to cram in too much – like a surfeit of turkey and Christmas pudding – will only cause indigestion.

One of the most exciting areas of the Science Museum this Christmas will be the "Test Bed" experiment area, with many hands-on models for children to investigate and enjoy and in the process almost certainly acquire more understanding of several scientific principles. And at the British Museum children can spend several enjoyable hours following (with well-designed quiz sheets) a number of trails including Roman Britain, Indian, Animals in Ancient Egypt and Hunt the Hieroglyphs.

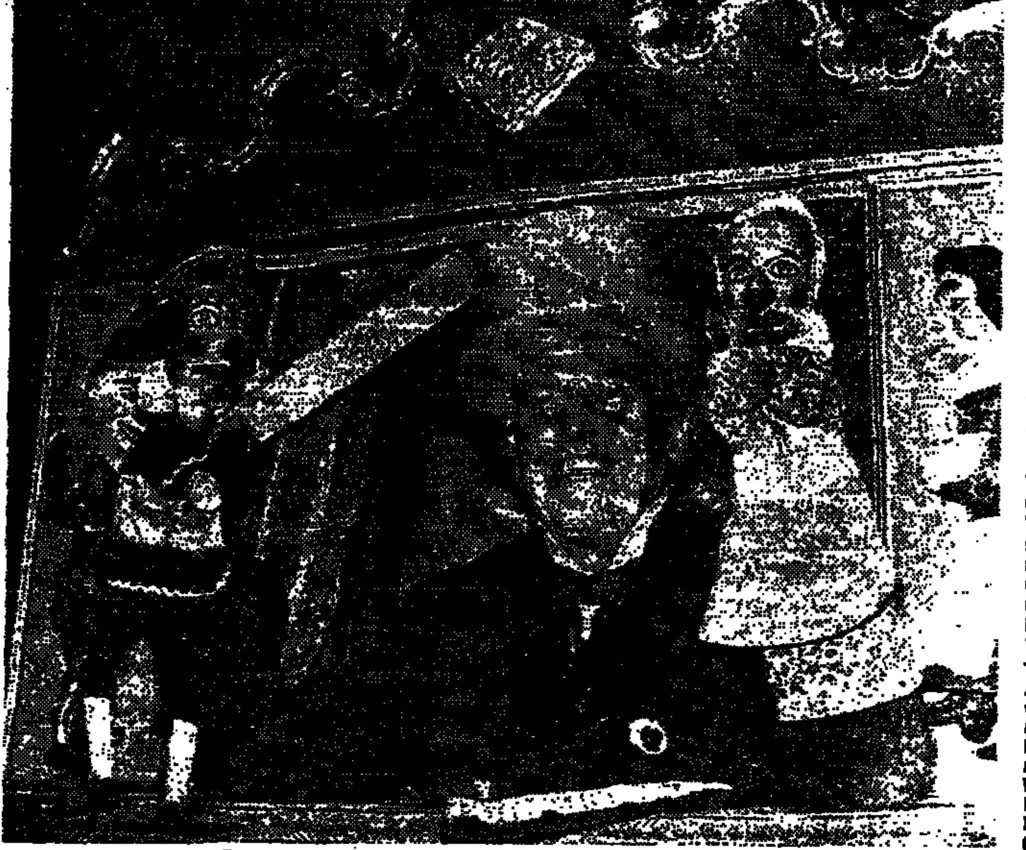
Among our favourite museums is the **London Transport Museum** in Covent Garden, where children can explore old trams and buses, operate points and signals and "drive" a modern bus. And to coincide with an exhibition of Tom Eckersley's famous LT posters, children can take part in poster-painting sessions themselves.

Other highly-rated outings have included the **Maritime Museum** at Greenwich, the **Collection of Historic Ships** at St Katherine Docks, a trip down the Thames in a covered boat with packed lunch and a video recording of the river's history, several hours spent brass-rubbing medieval knights at the **London Brass Rubbing Centre**. Still rated highly with most of the under-twelves I know is a visit to **Madame Tussaud's** where Punch and Judy shows are a traditional feature of the Christmas period.

But perhaps the most popular outing we have been on was an evening trip down Regent's Canal, eating a three-course dinner, and returning with a lunatic singer/guitarist/impressionist singing "British abroad" songs and old cockney favourites.

You will find hundreds more listed in various publications, the best of which for a short visit is probably *Children's London* published by the London Tourist Board (60p) available at tourist information points and most hotels.

Judy Froshaug



Harry Kerr

Take that: Percy Press and his Punch and Judy show at Madame Tussaud's

The Royal Mews, Buckingham Palace Road, SW1 (930 4832). Wed and Thurs, 2-4pm. Closed Dec 26, 27.
Tower Bridge Walkway, EC4 (407 0922). Mon-Sat 10am-4.45pm. Closed Dec 24-26.
Museum of London, London Wall, EC2 (600 3699). Tues-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sunday 2-6pm. Closed Dec 24-26 and Jan 1.
Barbican Centre, EC2, (638 4141). 10am-late evening. Closed from 6pm Dec 23-noon on Dec 26.
Science Museum, Exhibition Road, SW7 (589 3456). Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2.30-6pm. Test Bed: Dec 18-Jan 9, Mon-Sat, 11.30am-4.30pm. Closed Dec 24-26 and Jan 1.
Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, SW7 (589 6323). Hours as Science Museum and same closing.
British Museum, Great Russell Street, WC1 (636 1555). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sunday 2.30-6pm. Closed Dec 24-26 and Jan 1.
London Transport Museum, Covent Garden, WC2 (379 6344). Daily 10am-6pm. Closed Dec 25, 26. Poster workshops (book ahead) Jan 1-4, 10.30am and 2pm.
National Maritime Museum, Romney Road, Greenwich (858 4422). Tues-Sat 10am-5pm. Closed Dec 24-26 and Jan 1.
Historic Ships Collection, St Katherine Dock, E1 (481 0043). Daily 10am-5pm. Closed Dec 25 and Jan 1.
London Brass Rubbing Centre, St James's Church, Piccadilly, W1 (437 6023). Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm. Closed Dec 25.
Thames Guided Tours, Tower and Charing Cross Piers (481 2711). Daily with lunch or dinner, book in advance.
Madame Tussaud's, Marylebone Road, NW1 (935 6861). Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat and Sun 9.30am-5.30pm. Closed Dec 25. Punch and Judy shows from today until Jan 11 throughout the day, 11.30am-3.30pm.
Regent's Canal: My Fair Lady narrow boat cruises, 250 Camden High Street, NW1 (485 4433/6210). Check times and book in advance.

All the information was correct at the time of going to press, but it is worth checking with the venues before making any arrangements.

Outings

HANDEL'S MESSIAH: If you are visiting Trafalgar Square, the National Gallery or shopping nearby, round off the day with a visit to St Martin's to listen to the Messiah and put yourselves in a true Christmas spirit.
St Martin-in-the-Fields, London WC2 (839 1538). Today, 7pm. Tickets £2-£6.

TWO CAROL CONCERTS: More Christmas celebration with the choirs of local schools (primary schools in the afternoon, secondary in the evening) accompanied by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in a full carol concert.
Fairfield Hall, Croydon (688 9291). Today 3pm, Adult £2.50, child £1. For the 7.45pm performance tickets are £2-£4.75.

CHRISTMAS COOKERY WORKSHOP: For children aged seven and over, the chance to make their own sweetmeats for Christmas.
Geffrye Museum, Kingsland Road, London E2 (739 8368). Today, 10am-12.30pm, 2-4pm. Free.

THE CARPENTER'S WORKSHOP: A project for children and parents, with quizzes, lectures, and a musical workshop, in one of London's finest houses – with the rolling heath outside for walks before or after the workshops.
Kenwood, The Iveagh Bequest, Hampstead Lane, London NW3 (633 2751). Daily until Feb 1, 10.30am-12.30pm and 2pm-4pm. Closed Dec 22-Jan 1.

HOLIDAY LECTURES: Designed to appeal to the older age range of school students (12-18), several illustrated talks on medical matters given by acknowledged masters in the field at the Royal College of Surgeons. "Go Ahead Surgery" (Tues, 3pm) "The Sixth Former and Medicine" (Wed, 3pm) and "The Medical Story of Man in Space" (Jan 4, 3pm). Applications, enclosing sae 7in x 5in approx, to Miss L. E. Napper, Surgical Training Officer, Royal College of Surgeons, 35/43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PN. No charge for attendance, but you must have a ticket. Refreshments served after the lectures.

ANGELO: Just opened for the Christmas season at the Little Angel, the resident company's dramatization of the eponymous book by Quentin Blake. Charming story of a group of Italian strolling players.
Little Angel Marionette Theatre, 14 Dagmar Passage, Cross Street, London N1 (226 1787). Today, tomorrow, Dec 22, 23, and Dec 26-Jan 3, 11am and 3pm. Adult £2,50 at 3pm, £2 at 11am; child £1 at 11am, £1.50 at 3pm.

SEAMANSHIP WORKSHOPS: Children with a nautical bent should make for the National Theatre next week where members of the cast of *The Ancient Mariner* will be teaching such skills as rope-climbing, knotting and sailors' hornpipes. The workshops are in the Olivier stalls foyer on Mon, Tues and Thurs at 11.15am. There is no charge but numbers are limited and admission is by ticket. Information: 01-633 0880.

DRINK

Day of hot mulls and champagne

Friends and family seem to spend more time at Christmas swapping jokes from crackers than assessing the quality of the wine they drink, so I would rather get lots of good, reasonably priced drinks than buy fewer of the finest and rarest bottles.

Hot mulled wine is a good Christmas morning tipple and simple to make. Take a pinch each of cloves and mixed spice, several slices of orange and lemon, sugar to taste, plus half a glass of brandy or port for every bottle of modestly-priced, full-bodied red wine. Heat gently, making sure the mull doesn't boil.

A really good Christmas Day aperitif is my one exception to the "more but cheaper" approach. A glass of cold champagne always goes down well with neighbours on Christmas morning. This year's crop of good, inexpensive own-label bubbly includes Sainsbury's flowery Dry Champagne (£5.95), Waitrose's fresh Extra Dry (£5.95) and the toasty, full-flavoured Charles Dennery Brut (Asda £5.95) that did so well at our recent Christmas wine tasting.

With guests about to arrive for lunch, you can either continue with the champagne (but not the mull) as an aperitif and first-course wine or switch to Sandeman's Character Amoroso. Sherry is a much maligned fortified wine these days but a fine, old, sweet oloroso such as the amber-gold Character with its classic rich, nutty taste is a real treat. As it contains sherry drawn from a solera laid down in 1895, it is a tremendous bargain buy at £3.69 from Oddbins.

If you would rather start with a dry wine than sherry, Oddbins also have an excellent Chardonnay from Italy's north-eastern Alto Adige region – home of some increasingly impressive wines. This '83 Altesino Chardonnay comes from the house of Lageder and has a pale gold colour backed by the rich pineappley flavour so characteristic of young Chardonnay from outside France. At £2.89, it is a good buy.

Chianti is a robust red whose high acidity and definite flavour should cut through all the rich Christmas stuffings and complicated sauces with ease. The Market and Le Provencal shops are currently offering the splendid '82 Rocca delle Macie Chianti Classico for £2.29 instead of £2.69. Apart from the bitter almond bouquet typical of many chiantis, this wine from Castellina in the southern part of the chianti region has a delicious rich, fruity taste and finish unlike the lean austerity of most Tuscan reds.

But if nothing less than *cru classé* claret will do for an awkward relation, visit Berry Bros & Rudd (3, St James's Street, London SW1). They have a wide range of underestimated '77s which, as they correctly point out, is "the most undervalued Bordeaux vintage of the past 10 years". I recently tasted a dozen '77s with them and the best of the bunch was undoubtedly the fifth growth Pauillac Château Batailley. Don't be put off by its slightly murky purple colour: its fine, cedary bouquet and full, elegant palate more than make up for that, as does its price of £7.15 a bottle – about 25 per cent cheaper than Batailley '76. Cheaper still at £3.90 is Berry's '77 *cru bourgeois* Château La Tonnelle, which would make another inexpensive partner to the festive bird. This Bordeaux Supérieur, more obviously youthful than the Batailley with its tannic, grassy smell soon opens up to reveal a big, ripe blackberry-like taste.

At this stage in my household, everyone has come to a grinding halt before attacking the mineral water and Alka Seltzer, but if you can still find room for a wine to drink with Christmas pudding, a honied, peachy glass or two of Sainsbury's '83 Muscat de Beaumes de Venise is a safe choice (£4.65).

Jane MacQuitty

BRIDGE

Why Horace was unlucky

The bar at the club was nearly empty. At one end Dogberry peered gloomily into the remains of his gin and tonic as Horace Paradine droned on in the lecturing tone that he reserved for his unending mathematical disquisitions. At the other, Charles Grandace appeared to be immersed in his evening paper.

The subject of Horace's monologue was the deciding hand in the club's annual teams tournament. Traditionally it was a light-hearted event, where the better players were encouraged to mingle with the lesser lights. Dogberry, who had yielded to his wife's suggestion that an evening at Annabel's would be a more suitable way to spend their anniversary, was a natural target for Horace's self-pitying recital of the critical hand.

"With one board to play, the issue lay between Charles's team and mine. Although of course we didn't know it at the time, we were leading by 12 IMPs.

This was the final deal: Teams. North-South game. Dealer West.

North: ♠ AKQ7 ♡ 84 ♢ 654 ♣ AQ93
South: ♠ J9864 ♡ J10 ♢ AK10 ♣ 876

W	N	E	S
Grandace	T-H Henry	Percy	Paradine
INT	Double	2♡	3♠
No	4♠	No	No
No	–	–	–

"Charles led the ♡A. When I saw the dummy I was delighted with my decision. Percy contributed an indeterminate heart, so Charles cashed the ♡K before switching to the ♢Q. Obviously, Charles must hold the ♣K to account for his opening bid. But to make the contract I required three club tricks in order to dispose of my losing diamond.

"As I could reasonably dismiss the possibility of Charles having a doubleton club, there were two possible club distributions which would permit me to make three tricks: any 3-3 break, or a 4-2 break, where West has either ♣KJxx or ♣K10xx.

"Superficially, it might seem better to rely on the 3-3 break. But by careful timing, declarer can succeed whenever West has either the ♣J or the ♣10, a 75 per cent chance.

"Satisfied that my calculations were correct, I formed my plan. Take the diamond and run the ♣8. If it loses, win the diamond return and finesse the ♣9. Draw trumps, ending in hand before repeating the club finesse. Notice that it is essential to start the clubs before drawing trumps, otherwise you are an entry short."

"I must admit that was a beautifully reasoned scheme", said Dogberry, with genuine admiration. "What happened?"

"Well, I'll show you the full hand."

North: ♠ AKQ7 ♡ 84 ♢ 654 ♣ AQ93
West: ♠ 32 ♡ AK76 ♢ QJ3 ♣ K542
East: ♠ 105 ♡ Q9532 ♢ 9872 ♣ J10
South: ♠ J9864 ♡ J10 ♢ AK10 ♣ 876

"Of course that wretched Percy had the J10 of clubs alone, so I lost two hearts, two clubs and a diamond to go two down, conceding a 200 penalty. To make matters worse, my counterpart in the other room was Eustace, the duffer of duffers. The bidding and play to the first three tricks was identical. Then Eustace finessed the ♣Q, cashed two high trumps and the ♣A before surrendering a trick to West's ♣K. He was now able to discard his losing diamond on dummy's ♣9."

"Charles, you must admit Horace was unlucky", Dogberry sang out.

Charles put his paper down. "Of course I do, but not quite in the sense you suggest. You will notice that Horace would also have failed had East had ♣J10x. There is a way to cater for both those adverse distributions. After losing the club finesse to East's ♣10, win the diamond return and run the trumps. If the clubs are 3-3, there is no problem, and if West had four clubs initially he will be squeezed in diamonds and clubs."

"Then why did you concede that Horace was unlucky?" Dogberry pursued.

"Because if he had gone one down, instead of two, the swing on the board would have been 12 IMPs, and his team would have won on a split tie. As it was, the swing was 13 IMPs. Now that *was* unlucky."

Jeremy Flint

CHESS

England set their sights on the Russians

England's feat in coming second in the chess Olympiad, which ended at Thessalonika last Friday, has established it as the leading nation in the game after the Soviet Union and marks a first for the team. England came second in Haifa in 1972 but then the full strength of world chess was not engaged in the tournament as the Soviet Union and Eastern European teams failed to compete.

The English team, every member of which was in grand form, was, it is true, favoured in its efforts by the strong showing of the Russians against their chief rivals, who beat Hungary, for example, 4-0. The Soviet team achieved this despite being without their two best players, Karpov and Kasparov, who were still playing their marathon match in Moscow.

Up to now we have sent a team of many talents to the Olympiad but, as the English captain David Anderton told me, none of them seemed to be on form at the same time.

But this time, with our six grandmasters – Tony Miles, John Nunn, Murray Chandler, Jonathan Speelman, Nigel Short and Jonathan Mestel – we were sending our best team ever to an Olympiad; however, the question was, would they all be on form?

The answer came in the results; we were always in the top half of the draw and came well ahead of a number of the world's strongest chess-playing countries who had usually come well above us.

The final placings in the top half of the list speak for themselves: 1st Soviet Union, 41; 2nd England, 37; followed by US, 35; Hungary, 34½; Romania, 33; France and West Germany, 32½; Iceland and the Philippines, 31½; Czechoslovakia, 31; Brazil, Canada and Denmark, 31; The Netherlands, Cuba and Yugoslavia, 27½; Argentina, China, Israel and Scotland, 30½; Wales, 29½. It was nice too to see the other British teams figure in the top half, showing that the increase in chess-playing strength was spread all over the UK.

Such results demanded magnificent play from the whole team and their individual results and scores showed this in full measure.

Mentioning them in board order (and here it should be emphasized that the higher the board the tougher the opposition) the results were: Tony Miles, 6 out of 12; John Nunn, 10 out of 11. John Nunn had a marvellous score, and won the gold medal both for his board and overall. He also won the gold medal in a problem-solving competition and his score was the equivalent of more than 2,800 points in Elo rating – about 100 more than both Kasparov and Karpov who were top in this year's Elo rating list.

On third board Murray Chandler had a very satisfactory 5½ out of 9 and so too did Jonathan Speelman on fourth board. His results were the equivalent of over 2,600. On fifth board Nigel Short scored 3 out of 6 and on sixth board Mestel had 7 out of 9, this fine score winning him the gold medal for his board.

It must be most gratifying to the firm of Duncan Lawrie to see the marvellous effect of their generous financial sponsorship of the team. Also most helpful was the fact that with assistance from the firm, the team was able to stay in the most comfortable hotel in Thessalonika.

These results are to the great credit as well of David Anderton, who managed his team with a never failing flow of cheerful and sweet reasonableness that must have been a constant source of refreshment to their great labours. He is one of the most active members of the Friends of Chess, whose activities in promoting the British cause are largely responsible for these magnificent results. The target now must be to produce a world champion and also to beat and come above the Russians at the Olympiad.

The following is a beautiful game by John Nunn against one of the world's grandmasters at the Olympiad.
White: J. Nunn. Black: G. Sosonko (The Netherlands). Sicilian Defence.

1 P-K4 P-QB4 2 N-KB3 N-QB3
3 P-Q4 PxP 4 NxP N-KB3
5 N-QB3 P-Q3 6 B-QB4 P-K3
7 B-K3 P-QR3 8 Q-K2 Q-B2
9 0-0-0 N-QR4 10 B-Q3 P-QN4
11 P-QR3 B-N2 12 P-KN4 P-Q4

Opening up the position a bit too soon: P-KR3 was preferable.

13 PxP NxQP 14 N(Q)xNP PxN
15 BxP ch K-Q1

Here the king is still too exposed to attack, but White also wins after 15... B-B3 16 NxN PxN 17 B-N6 dis ch Q-K2 18 BxN QxQ 19 BxB ch K-K2 20 KR-K1.

15 ... 16 NxN PxN
17 R-Q3 N-B5 18 R-B3 B-N5
19 RxN PxR 20 R-Q1 ch K-B1
21 R-Q4 B-Q4 22 RxB B-Q3
23 R-Q4 resigns

Harry Golombek



Good as gold: John Nunn, winning medals for England

Correction

The following was reported incorrectly: *New in Chess Yearbook 1984A* (Batsford, £15) and *The New in Chess Keybook* (Batsford, in very limited quantities. Hardback deluxe, £30, or in two volumes priced £11.50 and £16 respectively).

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 522)

Prizes of the New Collins Concise English dictionary will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, December 20, 1984. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 12 Coley Street, London WC99 9YT. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, December 22, 1984.

ACROSS
1 Small fast warship (7.4)
9 At beginning (7)
10 Unpleasant task (5)
11 Moose (3)
13 Not stiff (4)
16 Walking manner (4)
17 Apprehensive (6)
18 Points at target (4)
20 Rich man (4)
21 Tall hound (6)
22 Neaten (4)
23 Stylish (4)
25 Ulmaceous tree (3)
28 Wrinkled (5)
29 Small ring (7)
30 Farewell (11)

DOWN
2 Hatred (5)
3 Hurt (4)
4 Unemployment money (4)
5 Spinal column (4)
6 First-course pear (7)
7 Crossbow hero (7.4)
8 Credential (11)
12 Hook-up (4.2)
14 Wound material (3)
15 Recollect (6)
19 Virgin Mary (7)
20 Twitch (3)
24 Greetings (5)
25 Border (4)
26 Larger skirt (4)
27 Tie (4)

SOLUTION TO No 521
ACROSS: 1 Former 5 Charms 8 Ash 9 Ferret 10 Impend 11 Anil 12 Obsolete 14 Odious 17 Meagre 19 Mastodon 22 Sale 24 Bureau 25 Clammy 26 Bra 27 Talent 28 Banker
DOWN: 2 Odeon 3 Morello 4 Rations 5 Chips 6 Appal 7 Monitor 13 Ore 15 Dracula 16 UNO 17 Minicab 18 Abstain 20 These 21 Doubt 23 Lumme

Recommended dictionary is the New Collins Concise

The winners of prize concise No 516 are M. K. Nelles, 7 Eaton Mansions, Cliveden Place, London SW1; Elizabeth O'Riordan, 104 Lonsdale Road, Oxford.

SOLUTION TO No 516 (last Saturday's prize concise)
ACROSS: 1 Parson's nose 9 Parlour 10 Canal 11 Yak 13 Neap 16 Stay 17 Idiocy 18 Name 20 Ammo 21 Annoys 22 Mask 23 Smut 25 Mac 28 Voice 29 Hoodlum 30 In the future
DOWN: 2 Aorta 3 Shop 4 Nary 5 Neck 6 Sanctum 7 Opening move 8 Play for time 12 Anchor 14 Pie 15 Vienna 19 Mission 20 Ass 24 Miler 25 Mesh 26 Chef 27 Jolt

Name.....

Address.....

The Times Prize Jumbo Crossword will appear in *Saturday* on December 22

Entertainments

GLC SOUTH BANK CONCERT HALLS

GLC South Bank Concert Halls, Belvedere Road, London SE1 8XX
Box Office: Open Mon-Sat 10am-9pm, Sun 1.30pm-9pm
Telephone Bookings 01-928 3191. Credit Cards 01-928 8800
Open all day with free exhibitions and lunchtime music. Coffee shop, buffet and bars. Jazz in the Riverside Café, dine to free entertainment every Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

Saturday 15 Dec 3 pm & 7.30 pm	MASSED CHOIRS OF THE LONDON HOSPITALS Charles Farncombe Thomas Edmonds Ian Carror Charles Fullbrook/Richard Fullbrook Fanfare Trumpeters of The Royal Corps of Signals Carols & Christmas Music. Aft pf: £5.50 (only) Eve pf: SOLD OUT in aid of Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children
Sunday 16 Dec 3.15 pm & 7.30 pm	GOLDSMITHS CHORAL UNION Brian Wright (conductor) Antony Saunders (piano) Roger Vignoles (piano) Christopher Bowers-Broadbent (organ) Carols for choir and audience. £2.00, £2.50, £3.50, £4.50, £5.50, £6.50 Norman McCann Ltd
Monday 17 Dec 7.30 pm	FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVENING Ernest Read Symphony Orchestra Ashtead Choral Society, Camden Choir, Hertford Choral Society, Howard Williams (cond) Philip Gammon (pno) Tchaikovsky Ste, The Nutcracker; Rachmaninov Rhapsody on a theme of Paganini, Carols. £2.20, £3.20, (only) E.R.M.A.
Tuesday 18 Dec 7.30 pm	ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Pro Musica Chorus of London Trinity Boys' Choir Nicholas Cleobury (cond) David Wilson-Johnson (bar) Prog inc Rossini Ov, La Cenerentola; Prokofiev Cinderella Ste (excl); wks by Mozart, Tchaikovsky, Britten, Carols for choir & audience. £3.80, £5, £8, £9 (only) RPO Ltd
Wednesday 19 Dec 7.30 pm	GALA CHRISTMAS CONCERT London Gabrieli Brass Ensemble RNLI Choir John Poole (cond) Leslie Pearson (organ) Gary Kettel (perc) A Family Concert to Celebrate the 21st Birthday of the London Gabrieli Brass Ensemble. £3, £4, £5, £6, £7, £8 In aid of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution LGBE/GLC

LONDON FESTIVAL BALLET
The Nutcracker
26 Dec.–16 Jan. Evenings 7.30 Matinees 3.00
Artistic Director PETER SCHAUFUSS, star of BBC TV's 'Dancer' Series.
Seats £3–£11. Concessions. No performance on Sundays.

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

Saturday 15 Dec 7.45 pm	CAROLS FOR CHOIR AND AUDIENCE City of London Choir Donald Cashmore (conductor) Farnaby Brass Ensemble Geoffrey Morgan (organ). £3.00, £5.50 (only) City of London Choir
Sunday 16 Dec 7.15 pm	PER MUSICA Julian Reynolds (conductor) Jean Louis Steuerman (piano) Catherine Denley (mezzo-soprano) Mark Tucker (tenor) Peter Harvey (bass) Schoenberg Chamber Symphony No.2; Mendelssohn Piano Concerto No 1, Stravinsky Pulcinella (1965). £2, £3, £4, £5, £6 Per Musica
Wednesday 19 Dec 7.45 pm	ACADEMY OF ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS Kenneth Sillito (director) Stephen Bishop-Kovacevich (piano) Handel Concerto Grosso, Op.6 No 1, Shostakovich/Barshai Chamber Symphony; Mozart Piano Concerto K.414, Haydn Symphony No 44 (Trauer). £2.50, £3.50, £4.50, £5.50, £6.50 Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields
Thursday 20 Dec 7.45 pm	ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA Simon Preston (conductor) Westminster Abbey Choir A Programme for Christmas Corelli Concerto Grosso, Op 6/8 (Christmas Concerto); Pachelbel Canon, V. Williams Fantasia on Christmas Carols, Carols for choir & orch. RETURNS ONLY E.C.O. & Music Soc.
Friday 21 Dec 7.45 pm	ENDYMION ENSEMBLE John Whitfield (cond) Nan Christie Dinah Harris Hugh Hetherington David Wilson-Johnson Mozart Sinfonia Concertante K.297b & K.364; The Impresario (staged); Arne 'Martern aller Arten' (P. Walmsley-Clark). £1.50, £2, £3, £4, £4.50 Endymion Ensemble
Saturday 22 Dec 7.45 pm	NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ORCHESTRA Vivienne Price (cond) Berlioz Overture, Roman Carnival; Britten Simple Symphony; Strauss Horn Conc No.1 (1st mvt); Handel Concerto Grosso, Op.6/8; wks by Rimsky-Korsakov, Anthony Carter, etc. £1.50, £2.50, £3, £4, £5 National Children's Orch

THE TEN-DAY WONDER FAMILY FESTIVAL
27 DEC – 5 JAN
An Extravaganza of Fun for children of all ages.
FREE PLAYSHOPS — mornings at 11 in Queen Elizabeth Foyer. Admission FREE.
27, 28, 29 Dec. Magic Box Entertainment; 30, 31 Dec. Circus Skills; 1, 2, 3 Jan. Acrobatics & Tumbling; 4, 5 Jan. Dance with London Festival Ballet.
PERFORMANCES at 2.30 in Purcell Room. Adults £1, children under sixteen 50p
27, 28, 29 Dec. David Wood's Magic & Music Show; 30, 31 Dec. Reg Bolton's Suitcase Circus; 1, 2 Jan. Derek Carpenter presents Pantomania; 3 Jan. Derek Carpenter's Clown & Puppet Show; 4, 5 Jan. The Singing Kettle. Free Creche — Ring Box Office for details.

THE JOEYS at CHRISTMAS
26–30 Dec. Evenings at 7.45 Queen Elizabeth Hall. £3 £4 £5. 'A king-size dosage' of stylish satire and political comedy from a 'distinctly lunatic and very funny' four-man team.

PURCELL ROOM

Saturday 15 Dec 7.30 pm	NAOMI DAVIDOV (piano) Scott Joplin and his Contemporaries The best loved and lesser known Rags, including The Entertainer, Solace, Maple Leaf, Nightingale Rag, Pastimes, Magnetic Rag. £2.50 Emperor Concerts
Monday 17 Dec 7.30 pm	LORRAINE McASLAN (violin) JOHN BLAKELY (piano) Beethoven Sonata in A minor, Op.23; Brahms Sonata in A, Op 100; Szymanowski Mythes, three poems for violin and piano, Op.30, Walton Sonata. £2.00, £3.00 Kirckman Concert Society Ltd
Tuesday 18 Dec 7.30 pm	PETER LION (piano) Haydn Andante con variazione, Hob XVII.6, Beethoven Sonata in D, Op.28 (Pastoral); Chopin Sonata in B flat minor, Op 35; Rachmaninov Etudes-tableaux, Op.33. £2, £3, £4 Grapevine Concert Mgt
Wednesday 19 Dec 7.30 pm	CHARLES RAMIREZ (guitar) Programme includes: Castelnuovo-Tedesco Sonata; Ponce Sonata III; Erika Fox Piece for Guitar (1st pf); Rodrigo Elogio de la Guitarra; Passacalle/Fandango, Albeniz Tango/Torre Bermeja; wk by Moreno Torroba. £2.50, £3.00, £3.50 Schmaltz Productions



ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

RAYMOND GUBBAY presents SUNDAY 30 DECEMBER at 3.15 & 7.30
New Year's
JOHANN STRAUSS GALA
JOHANN STRAUSS ORCHESTRA
Directed from the violin by JACK ROTHSTEIN
JOHANN STRAUSS DANCERS in costumes of the Period
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The Glorious Music of the Strauss Family including Roses from the South, Tritsch Tratsch Polka, Village Swallows, Im Fluge, Radetzky March, Wine Women and Song Waltz, Pizzicato Polka, Egyptian March, Cachucha Galop, Aloqlinet Polka, Wiener Blut Waltz.
Tickets: Matinee at 3.15: £3, £4, £5, £6, £7 Evening at 7.30: £3, £5, £6, £7, £8 (ONLY) Box Office (01-928 3191) Credit Cards (01-928 8800)

RAYMOND GUBBAY presents SUNDAY 6 JANUARY at 7.30
BALLET GALA NIGHT
Introduced by BERYL GREY
with the
LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA Conductor: DAVID COLEMAN
Guest Dancers:
WAYNE EAGLING KAREN PAISLEY
Prog. inc. Delibes: Coppelia (excerpts); Tchaikovsky: Swan Lake Suite; Weber/Berlioz Invitation to the Dance (Spectre de la Rose); Tchaikovsky: Sleeping Beauty Waltz; Delibes Sylvia (Excerpts) and Guest Dancers in Tchaikovsky: Sleeping Beauty Grand pas de Deux; Rachmaninov Rhapsody.
£4, £5, £6, £7, £8 (ONLY) Box Office (01-928 3191) Credit Cards (01-928 8800)

RAYMOND GUBBAY presents SUNDAY 13 JANUARY at 7.30
THE MAGIC OF D'OYLY CARTE
GILBERT & SULLIVAN
LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA Conductor: FRASER GOULDING
Kenneth Sandford, John Ayldon, Geoffrey Shovelton, Alistair Donkin, Patricia Leonard, Vivien Tierney, Lorraine Daniels and chorus.
27 former members of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company in songs and scenes from the Savoy Operas of Gilbert & Sullivan inc. The Mikado, The Gondoliers, The Pirates of Penzance, HMS Pinafore and The Yeomen of the Guard.
£4, £5, £6, £7, £8 (only) Box Office (01-928 3191) Credit Cards (01-928 8800)

Wigmore Hall

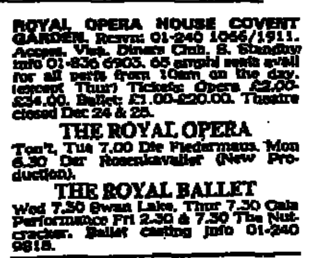
Box Office and Credit Cards 01-935 2141 Mailing list £2.20 a year

Tonight 15 Dec 7.30 pm	WIGMORE CHRISTMAS CRACKER, MALCOLM BINNS, CANTABILE the unique vocal team, GUILDHALL STRING ENSEMBLE, EMMA KIRKBY & ANTHONY ROOLEY, VALERIE MASTERSON, ROGER VIGNOLES. Mendelssohn: Christmas Pieces Op 72, Songs without Words arranged for Queen Victoria and Prince Albert; Halloh! from the opera 'Tony'; Depuis le jour from 'Louise'; Rossini: String Sonata No.1; Barber: Adagio for strings; 1930's Cabaret Songs of the Comedian Harmonists; Songs by Purcell, Satie and Mercadante; Surprises from the Christmas Cracker £4.50 ALL OTHERS SOLD
Tomorrow 16 Dec 3.30 pm	MOURA LYMPANY piano Mozart: Adagio in B minor K.540; Sonata in C K.330; Beethoven: Sonata in C minor 'Pathétique'; Brahms: Variations and Fugue on a Theme by Handel Op.24 Memorial Concert for Richard Sampson Handley OBE FRCS. £4.50, £3.50, £2.50, £2
Monday 17 Dec 7.30 pm	CARROL McLAUGHLIN harp Spohr: Fantasie Op.35; Handel: Concerto in B flat; Albéniz: Sonata in D; Marrs: Textures (1st perf); Salzedo: Vars. on a Theme in the Ancient Style Op.30; Schafer: The Crown of Ariadne; Halffter: Danza de la Pastora; Parish-Alvars: Mandoline. £4, £3.20, £2.50, £1.80 K. Asch/Canadian High Commission
Tuesday 18 Dec 7.30 pm	ALEXANDRA NOMIDOU piano Schumann: Papillons Op.2; Davidsbündlertänze Op.6; Brahms: 4 Klavierstücke Op.119; Chopin: Andante spianato and grande Polonaise brillante Op.22. £4, £3.20, £2.50, £1.80 Helen Jennings Concert Agency
Wednesday 19 Dec 7.30 pm	ST GEORGE'S CANZONA John Sothcott dir. Tappster, Dryngher Fille Another Ale. Medieval, renaissance and traditional music for the festive season with R Auffield, C Elliston Ball, J. Grubb, D Harrison, R Harrison, M Oxenham, M Sargeant. £4.50, £3.50, £2.50, £2 Early Music and Baroque Series
Friday 28 Dec 7.30 pm	GUILDHALL STRING ENSEMBLE Wolf: Italian Serenade; Rossini: String Sonata No.3, Mendelssohn: String Symphony No.9; Tchaikovsky: Souvenir de Florence. £4, £3.20, £2.50, £1.80 Mendelssohn/Italian Series

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM S 836 3161 CC 240 5258
ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
Ton't, Mon, Wed 7.00 COSI FAN TUTTE. Tues Fri 7.30 THE MAKROPULOS CASE. Thur 7.00 MAZEPPA. CC Ticketmaster 01-379 6212.

SADLER'S WELLS 278 8916 Dec 18 – Jan 5
SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET
CHRISTMAS SEASON



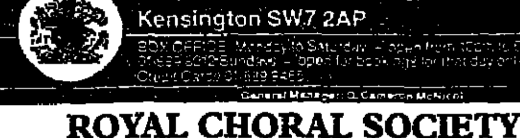
ROYAL OPERA HOUSE COVENT GARDEN. Resvns: 01-240 1066/1911. Access, Visa, Diners Club. S. Standby info 01-836 6903. 65 amphi seats avail for all perfs from 10am on the day. (except Thur) Tickets: Opera £2.00-£34.00. Ballet: £1.00-£20.00. Theatre closed Dec 24 & 25.
THE ROYAL OPERA
Ton't, Tue 7.00 Die Fledermaus. Mon 6.30 Der Rosenkavalier (New Production).
THE ROYAL BALLET
Wed 7.30 Swan Lake. Thur 7.30 Gala Performance Fri 2.30 & 7.30 The Nutcracker. Ballet casting info 01-240 9815.



St John's Smith Square

London SW1P 3HA Director: Joanna Brendon
Box Office 01-222 1061 Mon-Fri 11am-6pm and from 5pm at each concert

Tonight 15 Dec 7.30 pm	ACADEMY OF LONDON Richard Stamp cond. Pauline Lowbury violin. Phillip Pilkington piano. Beethoven: Violin Concerto in D; Piano Concerto No.5 (Emperor); Grosse Fuge Op.133. £5.50, £4.50, £3.50, £3, £2.50 A.O.L.
Wednesday 19 Dec 7 pm	THE ORCHESTRA OF ST. JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE, CHOIR OF ST. JOHN'S SQUARE. John Lubbock cond. Alison Hargan sop. Linda Strachan contr. Wynford Evans ten. Richard Jackson bar. JS Bach: Christmas Oratorio. £6.50, £5.50, £4.50, £3.50, £2.50 The Orchestra of St. John's Ltd
Thursday 20 Dec 7.30 pm	CHOIR OF CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, OXFORD. PHILIP JONES BRASS ENSEMBLE Francis Grier, Philip Jones dirs. A Christmas Tapestry. Schütz: Psalms of David, and music by Weelkes, Scheidt & Brahms. Sponsored by the Woolwich Building Society. £7, £5, £3 Magnum Music/Music at Oxford
Friday 21 Dec 7.30 pm	NON NOBIS CHOIR, LA SPIRITATA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA. David Ward con. Lynne Dawson sop. Yvonne Lea contr. Gordon Sandison bar. Christmas Music & Carols. Mozart: Divertimento. Handel: Christmas Music. Traditional Carols for soloists, choir & audience. £2.50, £3.50, £4.50, £5.50, £6.50 (children 1/2 price)
Saturday 22 Dec 7.30 pm	VIVALDI CONCERTANTE. Joseph Pilbery con. Aeolian Singers. Glenese Metcalfe sop. Timothy Woolford bass. David Williams & Mark Newton trumpts. Handel: Queen of Sheba; Messiah expts. Corelli: Christmas Conc. Vivaldi: Gloria expts; Concerto for 2 trumpets in C. £6.75, £5.75, £4.75, £3.75, £2.50 Vivaldi Concertante/Alfa Romeo (GB) Ltd



ROYAL CHORAL SOCIETY
Conductor: **MEREDITH DAVIES**
THURSDAY NEXT 20 DECEMBER at 7.30
SATURDAY NEXT 22 DECEMBER at 2.30 & 7.30
TRADITIONAL FAMILY CAROL CONCERTS
CAMBRIDGE BUSKERS
John Birch organ
The Fanfare Trumpeters of the Royal Marines School of Music, Deal
£1.25-£7 Box Office (01-589 8212) Credit Cards (01-589 9465)

ROYAL ALBERT HALL
TODAY AT 3.00 & 7.30pm
LONDON CHORAL SOCIETY
Sponsored by Capital Radio
A CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS
in Words and Music with
MARTIN JARVIS and HANNAH GORDON
Children's Concert 3pm. Evening Concert 7.30pm
ENGLISH BRASS ENSEMBLE
TRISTAN FRY percussion MARGARET PHILLIPS organ
HABERDASHERS' ASKES' SCHOOL BOYS' CHOIR
Conductors: JANE GLOVER & MARTIN MERRY
Tkts: Afternoon: £3.50 throughout. Eves: £7, £6, £4, £3. Available from Royal Albert Hall Box Office (01-589 8212) C.C. (01-928 8800) & usual agents

VICTOR HOCHHAUSER and the RAH presents
SATURDAY 29 DECEMBER AT 7.30
SPECTACULAR NEW YEAR GALA VIENNESE EVENING
Introduced & Conducted by ANTONY HOPKINS
LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
BAND OF THE GRENADIER GUARDS
JOHANN STRAUSS: Emperor Waltz, Champagne Polka, Ov. Gypsy Baron, Radetzky March, Pizzicato Polka, Egyptian March, Hunting Polka, Blue Danube Waltz, Christmas Polka. SCHUBERT: Ov. Rosamunde. LANNER: New Year Gallop
BEETHOVEN: BATTLE SYMPHONY (Wellington's Victory)
WITH MUSKETEERS CORPS OF DRUMS GRENADIER GUARDS
SPECIAL LIGHTING EFFECTS & ROYAL ALBERT HALL ORGAN
£3.50, £4.50, £6, £7, £8 Royal Albert Hall (01-589 8212) Credit Cards (01-589 9465)

Fairfield Croydon

01-688 9291 01-680 5955 Credit cards

TODAY 3 and 7.45 pm TWO CAROL CONCERTS Croydon Philharmonic Society James Gaddarn
TUESDAY 1.05 pm TRINITY BOYS CHOIR Christmas Concert
WEDNESDAY 8 pm ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA All tickets sold

Thursday 20 Dec 8 pm	**BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** SIR JOHN PRITCHARD ALFREDA HODGSON Contralto RYLAND DAVIES Tenor THOMAS ALLEN Baritone JOHN SHIRLEY-QUIRK Bass BBC SINGERS **BERLIOZ L'ENFANCE DU CHRIST** £2.50, £3, £4, £5, £6

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
KATIA RICCIARELLI
Soprano
LUCIA VALENTINI-TERRANI
Mezzo-soprano
Vincenzo Scalera piano
Sunday 30 December at 8pm
Programme includes songs by Rossini and arias and duets from *Semiramide, L'Italiana in Algeri, Tancredi, Anna Bolena* and *Norma*
Tickets from £4.00 at the Royal Opera House
01-240 1066/1911 Access/Visa/Diners Card

ST PAUL'S CHURCH, WILTON PLACE, KNIGHTSBRIDGE, SW1
Saturday, 22nd December at 7.30pm
IN TERRA PAX .... Finzi
CAPRIOL SUITE .... Warlock
HODIE .... Vaughan Williams
St Paul's Festival Choir and Orchestra
(Leader: Charles Meinardi)
Soloists: Anne Richards, Andrew Yeats, Malcolm Singer
Conductor: Richard M. Latham
Admission by programme – at the door – £3.00



Karlheinz Stockhausen is coming to the **Barbican Centre January 8-16 1985** Tickets & information 01-638 8891 01-628 8795 BBC





ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL
CHRISTMAS SERVICES
16.00 Sat 22 Dec – Carol Service
16.00 Mon 24 Dec – Carol Service, with Blessing of the Crib
23.30 Mon 24 Dec – Midnight Communion
10.30 Tue 25 Dec – Choral Mattins
11.30 Tue 25 Dec – Choral Communion
15.15 Tue 25 Dec – Choral Evensong
16.00 Wed 26 Dec – Carols at the Crib
16.00 Thu 27 – Carols at the Crib
Enquiries Tel: 01-248 2705

RAYMOND GUBBAY presents at the BARBICAN

WEDNESDAY 26 DECEMBER at 7.30 pm
BEETHOVEN EVENING
OV., CORIOLAN; PIANO CONCERTO NO.5 (EMPEROR); SYMPHONY NO.3 (EROICA)
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
Conductor: LIONEL FRIEND PETER DONOHOE piano
£3.50, £4.50, £5.50, £6.50, £7.50, £8.50

THURSDAY 27 DECEMBER at 3 pm
THE SNOWMAN
Howard Blake conducts his award-winning score and PETER & THE WOLF
IAN LAVENDER narrator
All seats £3.80

THURSDAY 27 DECEMBER at 8 pm
Rossini ..... OVERTURE, THE BARBER OF SEVILLE
Grieg ..... PEER GYNT SUITE NO.1
Rachmaninov ..... PIANO CONCERTO NO.2
Tchaikovsky ..... SYMPHONY NO.6 (PATHETIQUE)
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Conductor: JAMES JUDD
HOWARD SHELLEY piano
£3.50, £4.50, £5.50, £6.50, £7.50, £8.50

FRIDAY 28 DECEMBER at 3 pm
THAT'S CRICKET
Brian Johnston leads his panel of guest celebrities — Tom Graveney, Jim Laker and Fred Trueman — in a fascinating discussion on cricket past and present. The programme includes memorable film material on cricket researched and assembled by John Huntley.
All seats £4

FRIDAY 28 DECEMBER at 8 pm
JOSHUA RIFKIN
by popular demand
The Master of Ragtime plays Scott Joplin
The new programme inc. Fig Leaf Rag, Sugar-Cane, The Entertainer, Search Light Rag, Rose Leaf Rag, Maple Leaf Rag, Wall Street Rag, Paragon Rag and Scott Joplin's New Rag.
£2, £3, £4.50, £6, £7.50

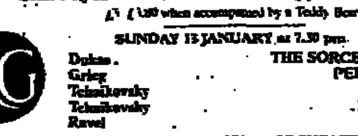
SATURDAY 29 DECEMBER at 3 pm
NAPOLEON
Abel Gance's epic masterpiece returns to the Barbican for a Special Screening. Recreated by Kevin Brownlow with live orchestral accompaniment in the acclaimed score by Carl Davis commissioned by Thames Television for Channel 4.
THE WREN ORCHESTRA Conductor CARL DAVIS
The film runs for about 5 1/4 hours plus intervals, and is shown in two parts. Each half has a 20 minute interval and there is an extended break of approx. 1 1/2 hours between the two parts.
£10, £12.50, £14.50, £16.50
In association with the British Film Institute

SUNDAY 30 DECEMBER at 3 pm
TIMOTHY WEST AS BEECHAM
By Caryl Brahms & Ned Sherrin with Terry Wale
Directed by Patrick Garland
£2.50, £3.50, £5, £5.50

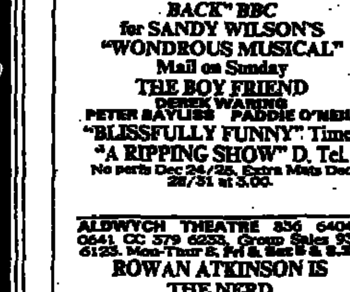
SUNDAY 30 DECEMBER at 7.30 pm
Mendelssohn ..... THE HEBRIDES OVERTURE (FINGAL'S CAVE)
Mozart ..... EINE KLEINE NACHTMUSIK
Elgar ..... CELLO CONCERTO
Beethoven ..... SYMPHONY NO.6 (PASTORAL)
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
Conductor: NICHOLAS CLEOBURY ROBERT COHEN cello
£3.50, £4.50, £5.50, £6.50, £7.50, £8.50

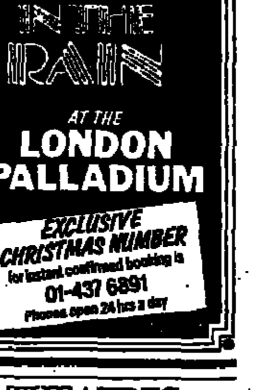
WEDNESDAY 2 JANUARY at 5 pm
Owing to public demand extra performance at 2 pm
NEW YEAR'S TEDDY BEARS CONCERT
A Bearable Entertainment for all the Family
LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA
Conductor: FRASER GOULDING
IAN WALLACE narrator
Prog. inc. Eric Coates: The Three Bears; Flanders & Swann: Animal Songs, Sullivan/Mackerras: Pineapple Poll Selection; Delibes: Coppelia excerpts, etc.
PLUS Personal appearance by a number of distinguished bears inc. George the Hellmeister Bear, 1-ton dept inc. Paddington Bear. And Special Walt Disney musical sequence with live appearance by Winnie the Pooh, Brer Bear, Baloo Bear and Little John.
Come early and meet the Bears Please bring your own Teddy Bears.
£3 £1.50 when accompanied by a Teddy Bear

SUNDAY 13 JANUARY at 7.30 pm
Dukas ..... THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE
Grieg ..... PEER GYNT SUITE NO.1
Tchaikovsky ..... VIOLIN CONCERTO
Tchaikovsky ..... ROMEO AND JULIET
Ravel ..... BOLERO
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
Conductor ENRIQUE BATIZ LELAND CHEN violin
£3.50, £4.50, £5.50, £6.50, £7.50, £8.50
Box Office (01-628 8795) Credit Cards (01-638 8891)



Saturday December 15 7.45pm	GALA NIGHT OF GILBERT & SULLIVAN. A complete and costumed performance of Trial by Jury, preceded by popular selections in costume from other Gilbert and Sullivan operas. London Savoyards in Concert. New Concert Orchestra, London Savoyards Chorus. Richard Balcombe, Patricia Cope, Janice Hooper-Roe, Geoffrey Shovelton, Eric Stilling, Michael Wakeham, Paul Hudson. £6.80, £5.80, £4 only.
Sunday December 16 7.30pm	CITY OF LONDON SINFONIA. Richard Hickox Singers. Richard Hickox (cond). Patrizia Kwella (soprano), Margaret Cable (mezzo-soprano). Charles Brett (counter-tenor). Maldwyn Davies (tenor). Stephen Roberts (bass). Handel: Messiah. £7.50, £5.50, £3. Sponsored by John Laing Construction Ltd
Monday December 17, Tuesday 18, Thursday 20, 1.00pm	THE ORCHESTRA OF ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE. Bach: Christmas Oratorio in 3 parts. John Lubbock (cond). Soloists: Alison Hargan, Linda Strachan, Wynford Evans, Richard Jackson. Choir of St John's Smith Square. All seats £2.50 or complete series £6.00. In aid of MENCAP
Monday December 17 7.00pm	HARRODS CHRISTMAS MUSIC FESTIVAL. London Symphony Orchestra. London Symphony Chorus. Richard Hickox (cond). Richard Jackson (baritone). Rossini: Overture 'William Tell'. Tchaikovsky: Waltz of the Snowflakes from 'The Nutcracker'. Vaughan Williams: Fantasia on Christmas Carols. Leroy Anderson: Sleigh Ride. Carols for Chorus, Orchestra and Audience. Returns only. Sponsored by Harrods.
Tuesday December 18 7.00pm	HARRODS CHRISTMAS MUSIC FESTIVAL. London Symphony Orchestra. London Symphony Chorus. Richard Hickox (cond). Elgar: Overture 'Cockaigne'. Corelli: Christmas Concerto. Vaughan Williams: Fantasia on 'Greensleeves'. Handel: Pastoral Symphony and choruses from 'Messiah'. Carols for Chorus, Orchestra and Audience. Returns only. Sponsored by Harrods.
Wednesday December 19 7.00pm	HARRODS CHRISTMAS MUSIC FESTIVAL. The King's Singers in concert with the London Symphony Orchestra. Returns only. Sponsored by Harrods.
Thursday December 20 7.00pm	HARRODS CHRISTMAS MUSIC FESTIVAL. London Symphony Orchestra. London Symphony Chorus. Richard Hickox (cond). Richard Jackson (baritone). Rossini: Overture 'William Tell'. Tchaikovsky: Waltz of the Snowflakes from 'The Nutcracker'. Vaughan Williams: Fantasia on Christmas Carols. Leroy Anderson: Sleigh Ride. Carols for Chorus, Orchestra and Audience. Returns only. Sponsored by Harrods.
Sun/Thurs December 23/27 3.00pm	THE SNOWMAN. (Blake). Prokofiev: Peter and the Wolf. Howard Blake conducts Sinfonia of London. Ian Lavender (narrator). All seats £3.80. Raymond Gubbay Ltd
Wednesday December 26 7.30pm	ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA. Lionel Friend (cond). Peter Donohoe (piano). Beethoven: Overture 'Coriolan'; Piano Concerto No5, 'Emperor'; Symphony No3; 'Eroica'. £8.50, £7.50, £6.50, £5.50, £4.50. Raymond Gubbay Ltd.
Thursday December 27 8.00pm	ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA. James Judd (cond). Howard Shelley (piano) Rossini: Overture; 'The Barber of Seville'. Grieg: Peer Gynt Suite No1. Rachmaninov: Piano Concerto No2. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No6 'Pathétique'. £7.50, £8.50 only. Raymond Gubbay Ltd.
Friday December 28 3.00pm	THAT'S CRICKET. Brian Johnston leads his panel of guest celebrities Tom Graveney and Fred Trueman in a fascinating discussion on cricket through the years. Interesting archive film material researched and assembled by John Huntley. All seats £4. Raymond Gubbay Ltd.
Friday December 28 8.00pm	JOSHUA RIFKIN plays Scott Joplin. New programme includes Fig Leaf Rag, Sugar-Cane, The Entertainer, Search Light Rag, Rose Leaf Rag, Wall Street Rag, Paragon Rag. Scott Joplin's New Rag. £7.50, £6, £4.50, £3. Raymond Gubbay Ltd.







THEATRES

ADELPHI THEATRE 01-836 7611/2. CC 01-836 7358. CC bookings 741 9999/379 6433. Group sales 930 6123.
Rudyard Kipling's
JUNGLE BOOK
The play starring FENELLA FIELDING & JEREMY SINDEN
Directed by JOHN HARTOCH. "Kipling is clearly back!" Gdn. "The adaptation bespeaks a genuine love of the original" D. Tel. "Fascinating" D. Mail. Eves 7.0. Mats Weds. Sats 3.0. FOR A SEASON.

ADELPHI THEATRE 836 7611. CC 836 7358. Group Sales 930 6123.
THE 'LAMBETH WALK' MUSICAL
ME & MY GIRL
ROBERT LINDSAY
FRANK THORNTON
EMMA THOMPSON
Prevs from 2 Feb. Opens 12 Feb.

ALBERY 836 3878 cc 379 6565/379 6433. Group Sales 930 6123/836 3962/379 7179. Eves 8.00. Thur Mat 3.00 Sat 5.00 & 8.15.
"OH BOY, WHAT A HOOT" (P. O'Neil) Daily Mail
A RAPTUROUS WELCOME BACK" BBC
for SANDY WILSON'S "WONDROUS MUSICAL" Mail on Sunday
THE BOY FRIEND
DEREK WARING
PETER BAYLISS PADDIE O'NEIL
"BLISSFULLY FUNNY" Times
"A RIPPING SHOW" D. Tel.
No perfs Dec 24/25. Extra Mats Dec 28/31 at 3.00.

ALDWYCH THEATRE 836 6404/0641. CC 379 6233. Group Sales 930 6123. Mon-Thur 8, Fri & Sat 6 & 8.30
ROWAN ATKINSON IS THE NERD
by LARRY SHUE
Directed by MIKE OCKRENT
"An ambulatory Amityville Horror... a wonderful display of grotesque comedy" Gdn. "SIDE-SHATTERINGLY FUNNY" T. Out. "BLISSFULLY LUDICROUS" F.T.
Booking through Christmas Season.

AMBASSADORS 836 6111 CC 741 9999 Grp Sales 930 6123. Evgs 8.0. Sat 5.30 & 8.30. Tues Mat 3.0.
THE LITTLE THEATRE OF COMEDY COMPANY
ALAN AYCKBOURN'S INTIMATE EXCHANGES
This Week: A PAGEANT
Directed by ALAN AYCKBOURN
"The most exciting theatrical concept to have hit the West End since The Norman Conquests" S Express.

APOLLO Shafts Ave S CC 01-437 2663. 434 3598. Grp Sales 01-930 6123. Mon to Fri 8.00. Thurs 3.00. Sats 5.00 & 8.30. No perfs 24 & 25 Dec. extra Mat 26 Dec at 8.00
KEITH BAXTER MILO O'SHEA
in **"CORPSE!"**
by Gerald Moon
"A WILD COMEDY THRILLER" D. Mail. "NOT SO MUCH A WHODUNNIT AS A WHODUNNIT TO WHOM"
Half price on top price seats for children, all Mat Perfs.

APOLLO VICTORIA 828 8665 cc 630 6262 Grp Sales 930 6123
STARLIGHT EXPRESS
Music by ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER
Lyrics by RICHARD STILGOE directed by TREVOR NUNN
"A MUSICAL THAT SURPASSES ANYTHING AROUND IN EVERY DIMENSION" D Exp
Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.0
BOX OFFICE OPEN 10am-8pm
100 tickets are held for Tuesday matinees only, available at the Box Office from 10am on day of performance, limited to 2 per person. Some £2 standing room tickets are available ½ hour before every performance for the unwaged and students. Apply daily to box office for returns. Now booking through September 1985 N.B. No perf Dec 24/25 Extra Mat Thu 27 Dec at 3.00

ARTS 836 2132. Leic Sq. Tube. FEMALE PARTS by DARIO FO & FRANCA RAME. "Recommended" T. Out. Tues to Sat 8.30. Sun at 7.30.

ASHCROFT CROYDON 01-688 9291 cc 01-680 5955. Opens 18th Dec for the Christmas season.
TREASURE ISLAND
A swashbuckling musical with an all-star crew. BOOK NOW!

ASTORIA THEATRE (next to Tottenham Court Road Station) Box Office 734 4287/8/9, cc 379 6433. Group Sales 930 6123.
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER presents
MELVYN BRAGG'S & HOWARD GOODALL'S THE HIRED MAN
"UNBEATABLE & UNMISSABLE" Punch
"Howard Goodall's score is one of the finest I have heard in a British Musical in years" Guardian. "A HIGHLIGHT OF THIS YEAR & A MAGNIFICENT BRITISH ACHIEVEMENT" Time Out. "THE BEST MUSICAL OF THE YEAR" Punch.
Eves 8.0. Mats Wed 3.0. Sat 4.0. N.B. No perf Dec 24/25 Extra Mat Thu 27 Dec at 3.00

BARBICAN 01-628 8795/638 8891 cc (Mon-Sun 10am-8pm) For inclusive hotel/ticket package 01-330 7111
ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY
THE PIT Today 2.00 & 7.30 BREAKING THE SILENCE by Stephen Poliakoff "remarkable performances by Daniel Massey, Gemma Jones, and Juliet Stevenson" S Exp (runs 2hrs 30). BARBICAN THEATRE: PETER PAN only eve seats for Jan 7-10 & 14-17. CHRIST CHURCH, SPITALFIELDS LONDON EC1. THE CRUCIBLE BY Arthur Miller ton't, 7.30 Dec 17-19. THE TESTIMONY transcript of McCarthy trials today 1.30 & Dec 18.

BLOOMSBURY THEATRE 387 9629 cc 380 1453/379 6433.
DAVID WOOD'S
THE GINGERBREAD MAN
starring PETER DUNCAN
UNTIL 12 JAN SAT PERFS 2.30 & 5.30 & SUN PERF 3.30 Next week Tue 10.30 & 2.00 Wed & Thurs 2.00 Fri 5.30 (Contact Box Office for further perf times inc Sun). Half price child ticket with each adult ticket (Sat & Sun only)

BUSH THEATRE 743 3388. Almeida Theatre presents SIMON CALLOW in MELANCHOLY JACQUES. Tues to Sun 8pm.

COMEDY 930 2578. CC 839 1438 Eves 8.0, Fri & Sat 6 and 8.45
BEST MUSICAL Eve Std
THE INTERNATIONAL AWARD-WINNING SMASH-HIT
LITTLE SHOP of horrors
2nd GREAT YEAR!!
"I LOVED IT – HOPE IT RUNS FOR 1,000 YEARS" Time Out
SEATS AT SOME PERFS FROM £5.00
Group Sales Box Office 930 6123
N.B. No perf Dec 24/25 Extra Mat Thu 27 Dec at 3.00

COTTESLOE 928 2252 CC 928 5933 'S' (National Theatre's small auditorium – low price tkts). Previews from Dec 18 THE PASSION.

CRITERION. S 930 3216 cc 379 6565 741 9999/379 6433. Groups 836 3962. Mon to Fri 8.0. Thurs Mat 2.30, Sat 5.30 & 8.30.
THE DAILY MIRROR & THE DAILY MAIL AGREE
"BRITISH FARCE AT ITS BEST"
The Theatre of Comedy Company
JAMES BOLAM BERNARD CRIBBINS
BRYAN PRINGLE in
RUN FOR YOUR WIFE
Written and Directed by RAY COONEY.
Over 700 side-splitting performances.
"SHOULD RUN FOR LIFE" Sunday Express
Special Theatre Dinner Criterion Brasserie/Stalls or Circle Ticket £13.50. No perf Dec 25. Extra Mat Dec 26 at 2.30.

DOMINION THEATRE Tott Ct Rd W1 From Fri to Feb 9. 2.30 & 7.30
KEITH HARRIS & ORVILLE in HUMPTY DUMPTY
A New Musical Pantomime
Book NOW for Christmas
Tickets from £3.50 to £7.50
£2 OFF: Children & OAPs
01-580 9562/3 cc 01-323 1576/7

DONMAR WAREHOUSE Earlham St. Cov Gdn. 379 6565/836 3028.
Tonight at 7.30pm
MAJOR ROAD THEATRE COMPANY in
MOHICANS
and at 9.30pm
FASCINATING AIDA
CHRISTMAS CABARET

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL 01-836 8108 01-240 9066 01-240 9067
DAVID MERRICK'S
Award Winning Broadway Musical
42ND STREET
"A BLISSFUL EVENING, EVERYTHING POSSIBLE FOR A MUSICAL TO HAVE & STILL PLENTY MORE – DAZZLING!" D. Mail. "EXHILARATING" D Tel. "YOU WON'T FIND A SHOW IN LONDON WITH MORE RAZZLE DAZZLE" D. Exp.
Evgs 8.0, Mats Wed 3.0. Sats 5.0 & 8.30. Group Sales 01-930 6123. Booking until July 1985.
BOX OFFICE OPEN Mon-Sat 10am-8pm. Special demand extra matinee Thurs Dec 27 at 3.0.

DUCHESS THEATRE 836 8243 240 9648 S
HELEN MIRREN in **"EXTREMITIES"**
A new play by William Mastrosimone
"A POTENT PIECE OF REAL RAW DRAMA" Daily Mail
"A POWERFUL AND DISTURBING THRILLER" Std.
Evgs Mon-Fri 8.0. Mats Weds 3.0. Sats 5.30 & 8.30.
SUITABLE FOR ADULTS ONLY

DUKE OF YORK'S S 836 5122 CC 836 9837/379 6433 Grp Sales 930 6123. Eves 8, Mat Thur 3, Sat 5 & 8.30.
"TRIUMPH ON TAP" Eve Std
STEPPING OUT
A Hit Comedy by RICHARD HARRIS
Directed by JULIA McKENZIE
"LAUGH YOURSELF SILLY" T Out "Had the first night audience yelling for more" D. Mail. "Must surely take the town... GO NOW" D. Tel. "Roars of approval" Times. "It's going to tap, tap, tap forever" N.O.W. "A brand new All Dancing, All Joking Smash-Hit Comedy...
A GREAT EVENING" B.B.C.

FORTUNE 01-836 2238. CC 379 6433. NOW BKG for Dec. 17 to Jan. 12. Mon-Fri 1.30 & 4.30. Sat 11 & 2.0. No perf Dec 25.
TOAD OF TOAD HALL
26th consecutive London Season of A. A. Milne's Classic Children's musical.

GARRICK CC S 01-836 4601. Eves 8.00, Wed Mat 3.00, Sat 5.00 & 8.00. 14th HYSTERICAL YEAR, LONGEST RUNNING COMEDY IN THE WORLD
NO SEX, PLEASE — WE'RE BRITISH
2 HOURS OF NON-STOP LAUGHTER
Directed by Allan Davis
CC 379 6433. Group sales 01-930 6123
OVER 5,500 FANTASTIC PERFS.
No perfs Dec 24 & 25. No matinee Dec 26. Dec 27 perfs 3.00 & 8.00.

GLOBE cc 01-437 1592.
Andrew Lloyd Webber presents the
COMEDY OF THE YEAR
Society of West End Theatre Award
DAISY PULLS IT OFF
by Denise Deegan
Directed by David Gilmore
"ABSOLUTELY SPIFFING" D Tel
"FULL MARKS FOR DAISY" Std
"A gold star to Daisy for a delightful show" Daily Mail. Eves 8.0. Mats Wed 3.0. Sat 4.0. Group Sales 930 6123.
"THIS IS AN ABSOLUTE HOOT AND A SCREAM" S Times.
SECOND GREAT YEAR
N.B. No perf Dec 24/25 Extra Mat Thu 27 Dec at 3.00

GREENWICH THEATRE 01-858 7755. TWO PLANKS AND A PASSION by Anthony Minghella. Evenings 7.45. Mats Sat 2.30. "Funny, muscular, gripping and grave" F Times. "Robustly well-plotted piece... graceful style" Times. From Dec 19 CIDER WITH ROSIE.

HAMPSTEAD THEATRE 722 9301. Prevs Ton't, Mon 8.00 Opens Tues 7.00. Subs Eves 8.0. KISSING GOD. Devised & Dir by Phil Young. Suitable for Adults only.

HAYMARKET THEATRE ROYAL 930 9832 Group Sales 930 6123
MAGGIE SMITH JOAN PLOWRIGHT & MICHAEL JAYSTON
in
The Chichester Festival Theatre Production of
THE WAY OF THE WORLD
Directed by William Gaskill.
"Maggie Smith returns to our stage in glory" Fin Times. "The most outstanding achievement was that of Joan Plowright" Std. "William Gaskill's superb production" Punch.
Evgs 7.30 Mats Wed 2.30 Sat 3.0. No perf Dec 24 & 25. Xmas week Mats Thurs 2.30, Sat 3.0.
FOR A LIMITED SEASON ONLY.

HER MAJESTY'S 01-930 6606. CC 01-930 4025. Group Sales 930 6123.
WEST SIDE STORY
"THE BEST MUSICAL EVER WRITTEN" City Limits. "FINGER CLICKING GOOD" Std. "EXPLOSIVE PRODUCTION" S. Times. Mon-Fri evgs 7.30. Sat 4.45 & 8.0. Mats Wed 2.30. All perfs to May 1985 now on sale. Open Xmas Eve.

KING'S HEAD. 226 1916. SESSIONS WITH FRENCH & SAUNDERS. Unto Ton't, Dnr 6.45, Show 7.45. From Mon Molly Parkin, ONE WOMAN SHOW. Dnr 7, Show 8 pm.

LA VIE EN ROSE cc. 61 Windmill Street W1. 437 6312/8380
CABARET SHOWBAR
2 shows nightly 9.00 & 11.00
GLAMOROUS INTERNATIONAL FLOORSHOW
PARIS AFTER DARK
Featuring Europe's most beautiful girls
Fabulous Specialities. Sensational attractions plus guest artists from the world of showbusiness.
COCKTAILS, CABARET, DANCING. Dinner available throughout the evening. Open 7.30-3am.

LONDON PALLADIUM 01-437 7373
Evenings 7.30. Mats Wed & Sats 2.45
LONDON'S GREATEST STAR-STUDDED SPECTACULAR MUSICAL
TOMMY STEELE in SINGIN' IN THE RAIN
with ROY CASTLE
"TOMMY STEELE'S MERE PRESENCE ON THE STAGE LIGHTS UP THE ENTIRE THEATRE" Harold Hobson Sunday Times 9 Sept '84
EXCLUSIVE CHRISTMAS TEL NO. 01-437 6891
Open 24 hrs a day including Sundays. NOTE NO PERFS CHRISTMAS EVE/DAY, EXTRA MAT DEC 27 at 2.45. BOOKING OPEN NOW FOR ALL PERFORMANCES TO JUNE OF NEXT YEAR. Credit Cards: 01-437 2055/734 8961
Night, Sunday Ansafone 01-437 6892.

LYRIC HAMMERSMITH S CC 741 2311. Today 2.30 & 7.30. Mon & Tues 2.0 & 7.30. Wed, Thurs & Fri 7.30
The Super Soul Musical
THE WIZ
"IT'S A RIGHT-ON 'GET ON DOWN' HOT GOSPELLING MUSICAL BONANZA" F.T. "Looks and sounds stunning" T.Times
LYRIC STUDIO: Eves 8.0. Sat Mat 4.30. PEPPER'S AMERICA.

LYRIC, Shaftesbury Ave. 437 3686 CC 434 1050/434 1550/741 9999. Grp Sales 930 6123. Eves 8.00. Sat 5.30 & 8.30. Thur Mat 3.00.
THEATRE OF COMEDY COMPANY
DINSDALE LANDEN GEMMA CRAVEN
NEIL PEARSON DAVID JOHN
JOHN CHANNELL MILLS
and PATRICK O'CONNELL
LOOT
by JOE ORTON
Directed by JONATHAN LYNN
"I laughed until the tears ran down my face" F.T.

LYTTELTON 928 2252 cc 928 5933 'S' (National Theatre's proscenium stage). Today 3.00 (low price mat) & 7.45. Mon 7.45, then Dec 18 to 20 & Jan 10 to 16 SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER by Goldsmith.

MAYFAIR S CC 629 3036 Mon-Thur 8 Fri & Sat 5.40 & 8.10 Grp 930 6123
RICHARD TODD
ERIC LANDER, ANNETTE ANDREA
THE BUSINESS OF MURDER
The Hit Thriller by Richard Harris
"The best thriller for years" S Mir "An unabashed winner" S Exp "A thriller that achieves it all. Sensational" Times "The most ingenious mystery to have appeared in a decade. A play to be seen" Daily Mail
4th GREAT YEAR
OVER 1500 PERFORMANCES
NB: Week commencing Dec 24 & Dec 31 Fri & Sat 6.0 & 8.30.

MAYFAIR S CC 629 3037. From Dec 17-Jan 5 – Twice daily 2.0, 4.0 Wed. Sats 10.30, 2.0 and 4.0
SOOTY'S CHRISTMAS SHOW

MERMAID THEATRE 01-236 5568. cc 01-741 9999. Seats from any Keith Prowse, No booking fee. Group Sales 01-930 6123. Eves 7.30. Thur and Sat Mats 3.00. No perf Dec 24 & 25.
LOU HIRSCH CLIVE MANTLE and SUSAN PENHALIGON in
OF MICE AND MEN
STEINBECK'S timeless masterpiece

NATIONAL THEATRE South Bank
NATIONAL THEATRE COMPANY
SEE SEPARATE ENTRIES UNDER OLIVIER / LYTTELTON / COTTESLOE
Excellent cheap seats day of perf all 3 theatres from 10am. RESTAURANT (928 2033). CHEAP, EASY CAR PARK. AIR CONDITIONING. TOURS OF THE BUILDING (inc backstage) £1.75. Inf. 633 0880.

NEW LONDON Drury Lane, WC2 01-405 0072 cc 01-404 4079. Eves 7.45. Tue & Sat 3.0 & 7.45.
THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER/T. S. ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL
CATS
Group Bookings 01-405 1567 or 01-930 6123. (Apply daily to Box Office for returns.)
LATECOMERS NOT ADMITTED WHILE AUDITORIUM IS IN MOTION. PLEASE BE PROMPT.
Bars open at 6.45pm.
Now booking to June 1 1985 – alternative cc bookings 379 6131. Postal applications now being accepted for June 3-Aug 31 1985
THE LONGER YOU WAIT THE LONGER YOU'LL WAIT
No perfs Dec 24/25 Mats. Mats Dec 27/28/29/3 at 3pm. No mat Jan 1.

OLD VIC 928 7616 CC 261 1821. Eves 7.30, Wed Mats 2.30. Sats 4.0 & 7.45.
GLENDA JACKSON
ROBERT EDDISON GEORGINA HALE GERARD MURPHY JOYCE REDMAN TIM WOODWARD
in
PHEDRA
Translated by ROBERT DAVID MACDONALD
Directed and designed by PHILIP PROWSE
"A TRULY OUTSTANDING PRODUCTION" F.T.
"GLENDA JACKSON WONDERFULLY IMPRESSIVE" D.Tel.
MUST END DEC 22

OLD VIC 928 7616 CC 261 1821
Previews from 26 December
ROY DOTRICE in
GREAT EXPECTIONS
adapted and directed by PETER COE
BOXING DAY BONANZA!!
MATINEE ALL SEATS £3.50
EVENING ALL SEATS £5.00

OLIVIER 928 2252 cc 928 5933 'S' (National Theatre's open stage). Opens Ton't 7.15. (No Sat Mat as printed in leaflet). Then Mon & Tue 7.15 & Jan 7 to 10 CORIOLANUS by Shakespeare. Mon & Tues 2.00 & Mat Dec 20 THE ANCIENT MARINER.

PALACE THEATRE 437 6834 cc 437 8327/379 6433. Group Sales Box Office 930 6123
THE MOST AWARD WINNING MUSICAL OF 1984
GALINA PANOVA
HONOR BLACKMAN JOHN BENNETT
TIM FLAVIN
in
RODGERS AND HART'S
ON YOUR TOES
with SIOBHAN McCARTHY and NICHOLAS JOHNSON
On Wednesday Evening & Saturday Matinee the leading role will be played by DOREEN WELLS
"'ON YOUR TOES' contains more joy than anything else on the London stage" Guardian. "One of the biggest theatrical firecrackers in London" Sunday Times.
"SHEER BLISS" Daily Telegraph.
Eves 7.45 Mats Thur & Sat 2.30
NB No perf Dec 24/25
Extra Mat Wed 26 Dec at 2.30
Pre-theatre Buffet from 6.45pm

PALACE THEATRE BAR, Cambridge Circus. 437 6834.
Saturday, December 15 only
LUNCHTIME
FOOD, MUSIC, WINE & ART
Mon & Tue: Julie Stephens & Matt – Singing Duo
Wed & Fri: Carla Mendonca – Singing/Pianist. Perfs at 1pm Admission free. Fully licensed. 11-3 Pub prices.

PHOENIX THEATRE 240 9661 CC 836 2294/379 6433. Grp Sales 930 6123. Mon-Thur 7.45 Fri/Sat 5.30 & 8.30
GRIFF RHYS JONES
GWEN TAYLOR in
TRUMPETS & RASPBERRIES
A New Comedy by DARIO FO
'INSPIRED clowning' S. Tel.
'INSPIRED nonsense' Fin Times.
'INSPIRED inventions' D Mail.
'INSPIRED fun' Standard.
'VENGEFULLY ELEGANT!' S.Times

PICCADILLY 437 4506 cc 379 6565/741 9999/379 6433. Group Sales 930 6123/836 3962. Eves 8.00. Fri and Sat 6.0 and 8.45.
Paul Jones
Kiki Dee Brian Protheroe
Gary Holton
Carlene Carter Julian Littman
PUMP BOYS & DINETTES
"IMPOSSIBLE NOT TO HAVE A GOOD TIME" BBC.
"Non-stop action. It's just one heck of a lot of fun!" Daily Mirror.
SPECIAL OFFER FOR 6.00 PERF FRIDAYS. Present this at box office on Friday and get 2 tickets for the price of one! (Subject to availability). No perfs Dec 24/25. Dec 26/27/28 at 4.00 & 8.00.

PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE 01-930 8681/2 cc Hotline 01-930 0844/5/6 Group sales 930 6123
RUSS ABBOT
SHEILA WHITE
in
LITTLE ME
"AMONG THE GREAT BLOCKBUSTING MUSICALS OF OUR TIME... GLORIOUS SPOOF" D.Mail. "THE FUNNIEST MUSICAL NEW YORK EVER SENT US... EXUBERANT SCORE, SPARKLING PRECISION OF MR FOSSE'S DANCE STYLE" D. Tel. "POSITIVELY SPARKLES" Sun Exp. "DELIGHTFUL, BUBBLING ENTERTAINMENT" Scotsman. "SPLENDID" D. Mirror.
Eves 7.30. Mats Thurs & Sats at 3.00. Special rate for OAPs/students/children (at certain performances). Reduced price Thurs Mats.



Entertainments

TELEVISION — THE WEEK

All aglow with the human spirit

On Thursday Channel 4's splendid season of Second World War documentaries reaches its peak with *Fires Were Started*, the 1943 tribute to the Auxiliary Fire Service directed by Humphrey Jennings (2.30-3.50 pm).

Fires Were Started was made for an official body, the Crown Film Unit, as propaganda for the war effort. But, as so often with Jennings, it gloriously transcends its immediate purpose and can stand comparison with anything the British cinema has produced.

It was Jennings's only full length film and the nearest he came to a feature in the conventional sense. Definitions are tricky but they help to place the film. *Fires Were Started* is a fiction in that it is a reconstruction, not a first-hand record; and it has a plot and characters.

At the same time it is rooted in real events – fire fighting in the London docks during the Blitz – and the parts are played not by professional actors but by the firemen themselves.

Up to then Jennings had worked entirely in shorts, most of them lasting only a few minutes. At their best, notably *Listen to Britain*, they were brilliantly constructed vignettes of image and sound infused with a deep feeling for the comradeship and unity of the nation in war.

Fires Were Started enabled Jennings to explore this theme over a larger canvas while revealing the ability – rare among British film makers – to portray ordinary people without condescension. Like George Orwell, Jennings was an upper middle class intellectual with an instinctive sympathy for the common man.

The richness of the film is belied by the simplicity of the story. It opens with the men gathering for duty, welcoming a new colleague and waiting for the inevitable night raids. Short of water and equipment, they battle with a blazing warehouse; the fire is mastered but one of the men is killed.

The fire fighting scenes are handled with a documentary vividness but the quality of the film comes not only from its capacity to convince on a superficial level but the force of Jennings's sensibility, which goes far beyond surface realism.

Again and again a telling image or idea lifts the film above the level of mere record.

Lee Miller

Deep feeling: Humphrey Jennings in 1944

It displays the characteristic Jennings synthesis of high and popular art, quotations from Sir Thomas Browne ("0 eloquent, just and mighty death") and *Macbeth* taking their unselfconscious place with sing songs round the piano. It is an exploration, above all, of the best of the human spirit.

What Lindsay Anderson wrote 30 years ago still holds: "No other British film made during the war, documentary or feature, achieved such a continuous and poignant truthfulness, or treated the subject of men at war with such a sense of its incidental glories and its essential tragedy".

In the Second World War, J. B. Priestley said, the British people were at their best and never quite as good afterwards. *Fires Were Started* is the work of a great artist but its inspiration was the quiet courage of a nation under threat.

Peter Waymark

Also recommended:

Sun Valley Serenade (1941): Not the world's greatest film but a chance to see Glen Miller and his orchestra and numbers like "Chattanooga Choo-choo" (BBC2, today, 3.25-4-45pm).

Leap Into the Void (1980): Michel Piccoli and Anouk Aimée in a characteristic assault on Italian family life from director Marco Bellochio (BBC2, today, 10.55pm-12.55am).

He Walked By Night (1949): Semi-documentary thriller of the *Naked City* school with Richard Basehart on the run after murdering a Los Angeles cop (Channel 4, tomorrow, 11pm-12.25am).

Champagne Charlie (1944): Alberto Cavalcanti's stylish evocation of the Victorian music hall featuring Tommy Trinder and Stanley Holloway as stars locked in a running feud (Channel 4, Thurs, 5-7pm).

Battle of Algiers (1966)*: Gillo Pontecorvo's compelling account of the Algerian struggle for independence from France.

*first British television showing

Programme choice

L'INCORONAZIONE DI POPPEA: Claudio Monteverdi's opera, set in ancient Rome, in the Glyndebourne production directed by Sir Peter Hall and conducted by Raymond Leppard. The leading roles are sung by Maria Ewing (Lady Hall) and Dennis Bailey. BBC2, today, 8.18-10.55pm.

SPORTS REVIEW OF 1984: A look back at the big moments and the presentation to the Sports Personality of the Year as chosen by viewers. Looks like a contest between the darlings of the ice, Torvill and Dean, and Olympic champions Sebastian Coe and Daley Thompson. It certainly will not be an England cricketer. BBC1, tomorrow, 7.15-8.50pm.

A KIND OF ALASKA: Dorothy Tutin, Paul Schofield and Susan Engel in Harold Pinter's award winning play inspired by the real case history of a woman who "falls asleep" for 30 years. All ITV regions, tomorrow, 9.45-10.55pm.

YES MINISTER: Extended seasonal edition of the marvellous political sitcom has our heroes gathering for the office Christmas party knowing that an impending Cabinet reshuffle could have a dramatic effect on their lives. Paul Eddington as Jim Hacker, Nigel Hawthorne as Sir Humphrey. BBC2, Mon, 8.30-9.30pm.

SUPERCHARGED: Lovely piece of nostalgia as racing driver John Watson re-creates the golden age of the Grand Prix car between 1924 and 1939, helped by a 1920s Bugatti and archive film, BBC2, Mon, 9.30-10.20pm.

MACMILLAN AT WAR: Sprightly nonagenarian Lord Stockton – alias Harold Macmillan – looks back on his time in North Africa during the Second World War in the first of three conversations with Ludovic Kennedy: pithy assessments of Eisenhower, de Gaulle and General Alexander. BBC1, Wed, 10.45-11.20pm. The other two programmes are at 11.15pm on Thurs and Fri.

WINTER FLIGHT: Roy Battersby's film from the David Puttnam stable charting the bumpy progress of young love on an RAF station in Cambridgeshire. Appealing performances from Reece Dinsdale and 16-year-old Nicola Cowper. Channel 4, Thurs, 9.30-11.30pm.

THE STAR THEY LOVED TO HATE: Profile of James Mason which includes an interview with Shelley Rohde while on location for his last film, *The Shooting Party*: it is a frank assessment of his life, personal and professional, the peaks and the troughs. Also clips from his films, including *A Star is Born*, *The Wicked Lady* and his favourite, *Odd Man Out*. All ITV regions, Fri, 10.30-11-30pm.

OPERA

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
Covent Garden, London WC1 (240 1066)
Tonight, at 7pm, *Die Fledermaus* returns to Covent Garden in time for Christmas and New Year, with further performances on Tues, Dec 22, 26 (matinée), 31 and Jan 3. The cast has Thomas Allen as von Eisenstein, Dennis O'Neill as Alfred, Marie McLaughlin as Adèle, and Barbara Daniels as Rosalinde. Meanwhile, Sir Georg Solti's anniversary *Rosenkavalier* has one last performance for the time being on Monday at 6.30pm, with Kiri Te Kanawa as the Marschallin, Agnes Baltsa as Octavian, and Aage Haugland as Ochs.

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (836 3161)
A new production at the Coliseum this week: after the company's stimulating *Queen of Spades*, they turn to another Tchaikovsky rarity, *Mazeppa*, not seen in this country since 1888. Mark Elder conducts with David Alden making his ENO debut as producer, and with Malcolm Donnelly in the title role. There are only seven performances, starting on Thurs and on Dec 22, 29, Jan 2, 4, 8, 10 all at 7pm; the production will not be revived. On Tues and Fri further opportunities to see David Pountney's magnificent production of Janacek's *The Makropulos Case* (7.30pm), with Josephine Barstow; and tonight, Mon and Wed at 7pm three more performances of *Cosi fan tutte*.

OPERA NORTH
Grand Theatre, New Briggate, Leeds (0532 440971/459351)
The Christmas season in Leeds begins on Wed at 7.15pm with a new production by Graham Vick of *The Magic Flute*, sung in English and conducted by Peter Hirsch. There is another performance on Fri, and in between comes Christopher Renshaw's production of *The Gondoliers*. Performances on Thurs and Dec 22 at 7.15pm.

LONDON SAVOYARDS
Barbican, London EC2 (628 8795)
The London Savoyards and the New Concert Orchestra provide London with its Christmas Gilbert and Sullivan. In a gala night of selected highlights, sung in costume, there will be a complete staged performance of *Trial by Jury*. Richard Balcombe conducts.

ROCK & JAZZ

PAUL BRADY
Tonight to Mon, Half Moon, 93 Lower Richmond Road, London SW15 (788 2387)
Ferociously talented Irish singer and songwriter, with a powerful band.

KOOL & THE GANG
Tonight/tomorrow, Wembley Arena, Empire Way, Wembley, Middlesex (902 1234)
Durable soul-masters, somewhat soft-centred of late.

AL GREY/BUDDY TATE
Tonight and Wed to Sat, Pizza Express, 10 Dean Street, London W1 (439 8722)
The mainstream jazz of these former Basieites makes everything else sound like junk food.

NIK KERSHAW
Tonight and tomorrow, Newcastle City Hall (0632 612606; Mon, De Montfort Hall, Leicester (0533 544444); Wed and Thurs, Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham (0602 472328)
Junk food.

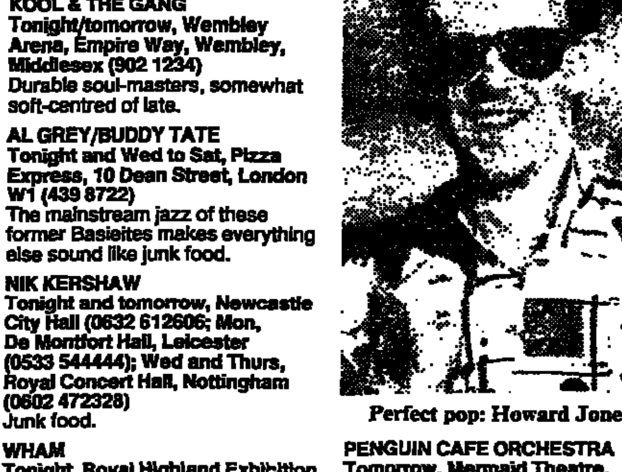
WHAM
Tonight, Royal Highland Exhibition Hall, Ingliston (031 333 2330); Mon, Bournemouth Centre (0202 96646); Wed, NEC, Birmingham (021 780 2016)
Pertinent statements concerning the condition of Young Britain.

SPANDAU BALLET
Tonight, NEC, Birmingham (021 780 2016); Tues, Royal Highland Exhibition Hall, Ingliston (031 333 2330); Wed and Thurs, Whitley Bay Ice Rink (0632 530125); Fri, Brighton Centre (0273 202881)
Accessories by Paul Smith and Porsche Cars.

HENRY LOWTHER
Tomorrow and Thurs, Bass Clef, 35 Coronet Street, London N1 (729 2476)
One of Britain's finest modern jazz trumpeters, heard tomorrow in a quintet with the bop altoist Peter King and on Thurs with his own quintet.

UB40
Tonight, Academy, 211 Stockwell Road, London SW9 (274 1525); tomorrow and Mon, Hammersmith Odeon, Queen Caroline Street, London W6 (748 4081); Wed, Brighton Centre (0273 202881); Thurs and Fri, Southampton Gaumont (0703 29772)
Millie was their Mary Wells, Desmond Dekker their Marvin Gaye.

Tomorrow and Mon, The Academy, 211 Stockwell Road, SW9 (274 1525)
That feeling of being in a hall of mirrors killed Lester Young. How does Lou Reed cope with seeing his reflection at every turn?





Perfect pop: Howard Jones

PENGUIN CAFE ORCHESTRA
Tomorrow, Mermaid Theatre, Puddle Dock, London EC4 (236 5568)
Along with Man Jumping, the Durutti Column and Virginia Astley, Simon Jeffes's little group is making the most original British music of the day.

JAZZ PARTY
Tomorrow, Albany Empire, Douglas Way, London SE8 (691 3333)
The soon-to-be-opened National Jazz Centre throws a Christmas party with new-jazzers Working Week, John Stevens's 28-piece Dance Orchestra, and Paul Murphy.

CULTURE CLUB
Mon and Tues, Wembley Arena, Empire Way, Wembley, Middlesex (902 1234)
Already, 1984 looks like George O'Dowd's personal edition of *In at the Deep End*.

HOWARD JONES
Tonight, Brighton Centre (0273 202881); Mon, Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 (589 8212); Tues and Fri, NEC Birmingham (021 780 2016); Wed, Queen's Hall, Leeds (0532 431961); Thurs, Glasgow Apollo (041 332 9221)
Perfect pop: catchy, photogenic, economical.

NICK LOWE
Thurs and Fri, Half Moon, 93 Lower Richmond Road, London SW15 (778 2387)
Nick Lowe and his equally brilliant sidekick Paul Carrack.

Concerts: Max Harrison; Opera: Hilary Finch; Rock & Jazz: Richard Williams

CONCERTS

ACADEMY BEETHOVEN
Today, 7.30pm, St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (222 1061)
The Academy of London put their stamp on Beethoven's *Grosse Fuge* Op 133, Violin Concerto (soloist, Pauline Lowbury) and Piano Concerto No 5 "Emperor" (Philip Pilkington, soloist). Richard Stamp conducts.

CHRISTMAS CORELLI I
Today, 7.30pm, Royal Northern College of Music, 124 Oxford Road, Manchester (061-273 4504)
Corelli's Christmas Concerto Op 6 No 8 opens this concert by the RNCM Chamber Orchestra under Michel Brandt. Mozart's Oboe Concerto follows (soloist, Robin Williams), then Maw's Life Study No 8 and Schubert's Symphony No 6.

SALONEN/HALLE
Tomorrow, 7.30pm, Free Trade Hall, Manchester (061-834 1712)
Esa-Pekka Salonen conducts the Hallé Orchestra in Tchaikovsky's Fantasy-Overture *Romeo and Juliet*, Dvořák's Symphony No 9 "New World" and Cristine Ortiz solos in Mendelssohn's Piano Concerto No 1.

MOURA LYMPANY
Tomorrow, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore Street, London W1 (935 2141)
Moura Lympany, the well-known pianist, performs Beethoven's Sonata Op 13 "Pathétique", Mozart's Sonata K 330 and Brahms's Handel Variations.

HENRY'S ROSE I
Tomorrow, 8pm, Sutton Place, near Guildford, Surrey (0483 504455)
The Philip Jones Brass Ensemble interprets Henry VIII's *Rose Without a Thorn*, Michael Berkley's *Music from Chaucer*, rags by Scott Joplin and bits of Bach arranged for brass.

SZYMANOWSKI
Mon, 7.30pm, Purcell Room, South Bank, London SE1 (928 3191, credit cards 928 8800)
Lorraine McAslan plays Szymanowski's beautiful *Mythes*, Beethoven's Violin Sonata Op 23, Brahms's Sonata Op 100 and Walton's Sonata. John Blakely is at the piano.

MARXIST TEXTURES
Mon, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall
The world premiere of William Marx's *Textures* is given on the harp by Carrol McLaughlin, who follows it with Salzedo's Variations, Schafer's *Crown of Ariadne*, Parish-Alvarss *Mandoline* and Spohr's Fantsisie Op 35.

ALEXANDRA NOMIDOU
Tues, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall
Alexandra Nomidou plays Schumann's *Davidsbündlertänze*, which she has lately recorded, Brahms's Piano Pieces Op 119 and Chopin's *Andante Spianato* and Grande Polonaise Op 22.

AMAZING JOSEPH
Tues, 7.45pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall
With Malcolm Parker conducting and Andrew Allpass at the piano, the Lambeth Orchestra, aided by the Wimbledon Girl Singers, interpret Lloyd Webber's *Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, Bizet's *Carmen* Suite, pieces by Offenbach and Johann Strauss II and, finally, carols for chorus and audience.

HENRY'S ROSE II
Thurs, 7.30pm, St John's, Smith Square
The Philip Jones Brass Ensemble pop up again, still playing Henry VIII's *Rose Without a Thorn*. They are joined by the Choir of Christ Church, Oxford, for Weelkes's *Alleluia, I Heard a Voice!*, Brahms's *O Heiland, reiss den Himmel auf*.

CHRISTMAS CORELLI II
Thurs, 7.45pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall
Corelli's Christmas Concerto Op 6 No 8 opens yet another concert, this time by the English Chamber Orchestra and Westminster Abbey Choir under Simon Preston. The other goodies include Pachelbel's Canon and carols for chorus and audience.

HARRODS FESTIVAL
Thurs, 7.45pm, Barbican Centre
Harrods Christmas Music Festival ends as it began, with the LSO and London Symphony Chorus under Richard Hickox in Rossini's Overture *William Tell*, Leroy Anderson's *Sleigh Ride*, Vaughan Williams's Fantasia on Christmas Carols, and carols for chorus and audience.



Royal rose: Henry VIII

Paperbacks of the month

REVIEW

The Selected Letters of Anton Chekhov Edited by Lillian Hellman, translated by Sidonie K. Lederer. (Picador, £7.95)

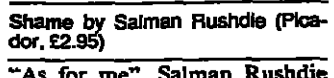
Kay Dick admires the gentle courage that permeates the letters of Anton Chekhov

Humour in the face of hardship

This is a reprint of a selection published by Hamish Hamilton in 1955. As to be expected with Lillian Hellman, the introduction and linking commentary are a trifle loaded, with the emphasis on Chekhov's radical views. This is fair enough, although as he himself wrote: "I sometimes preach heresies, but have never once gone as far as the absolute negation of problems in art . . . I always insist it is not the business of the artist to solve narrowly specialized questions." In another letter he indicates what he considers to be among "the holy of holies", namely health, intelligence, talent, inspiration, love and "absolute freedom" to express himself.

Chekhov was perfectly aware that society in Russia as he knew it was doomed. As a doctor he saw more abuse of the underprivileged than most. This is especially evident in letters describing his horrendous 3,000-mile trip to eastern Siberia, his census work, and investigation of prison conditions on the convict settlement of Sahalin. He was not a man to spare himself, dedicated as he was to the care of others. When the family fortunes failed, he made himself financially responsible for his whole family, housed them with him, worked long hours, as a doctor and as a writer.

Literary fame came early. "I need solitude and time" was his constant cry, but both of these were limited by the practicalities of looking after his family. The grandson of a serf, he enjoyed reasonably affluent early years and an excellent education. He lived well yet simply. His lifestyle throughout could be described as a spartan elegance. He enjoyed the pleasures and small luxuries, and presented an optimistic view of the future.



In the 1890s in Russia when attitudes were strongly polarized, Chekhov, although highly praised, was often attacked for his refusal to align himself. For a time he was a Tolstoy disciple – quietly confident about his own stance. As Miss Hellman puts it: "Chekhov looked at his work with clarity and humility . . . he was not to be buried or pushed or bullied". As these letters emphasize, nothing pleased him so much as to watch people with a gentle, humorous eye. Personal relationships, oddities and eccentricities, contradictions, pretensions, ambitions, failures and vulnerabilities were his concern. "We paint life such as it is . . that's all, there isn't any more." The first sign of the tuberculosis which was to kill him in his early forties was then evident. "Some inner force, like a presentiment, nudges me to make haste."

He bought for himself and his family the small estate of Melikhova, where days were spent looking after the peasantry, coping with typhoid, and writing until the early dawn hours. Concurrent with the stories were the plays. *The Seagull, Uncle Vanya, The Three Sisters* became established repertory classics, with Chekhov constantly moaning about their misinterpretation.

Ill-health took him to Yalta, where he pined for Moscow life. His friendship with Gorki and encouragement of the younger writer are among the finest of these letters, although one has to admit that all Chekhov's letters are marvellous. They fill one with regret to have missed knowing Chekhov – the caring, witty, intellectually scrupulous, intuitive, sweet-natured man – whose work, stories and plays, is so memorable. A selection inevitably brings omissions to mind (from the Constance Garnett edition for instance), and one wonders why Miss Hellman includes only a handful of letters from more than 300 to Olga Knipper, the young actress whom Chekhov married in his 41st year. Clearly, from her comments, Miss Hellman does not like what is known of Olga. She was so often an absent wife, a not very good actress, selfish, intellectually lightweight and not particularly considerate of Chekhov's need. Miss Hellman describes it as "a sad marriage", and evidently it was. Although Chekhov, very loyally, regarded it as happy.

Towards the end of 1903 he completed *The Cherry Orchard* – pondered over for three years – and lived long enough to attend the first night. Totally exhausted by then, he retreated again to Yalta and took to his bed. He died on July 2, 1904.

It is a pity that this edition is such a miserable production, hardly matching the richness of the text and, on the whole I prefer the Constance Garnett translation to this starkly literal one. That apart it is good to be in touch again with Chekhov's personal radiance.



Simple pleasure: Anton Chekhov

Trains roll in on tape tracks

Spoken word

Further Railway Stories by the Rev W. Awdry, read by William Rushton (Argo, 2 cassettes, SAY 100; £5.95)
Winnie-the-Pooh by A. A. Milne, read by Alan Bennett (BBC Records REC 528, available on cassette, ZCM 528; £2.99)
The House at Pooh Corner by A. A. Milne, read by Alan Bennett (BBC Records REC 493, available on cassette, ZCM 493; £2.99)
Just So Stories by Rudyard Kipling, read by Johnny Morris (Cover to Cover Cassettes, 3 cassettes; £7.75)
Stig of the Dump by Clive King, read by Martin Jarvis (Cover to Cover Cassettes, 3 cassettes; £7.75)
Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson, read by David Buck (Cover to Cover Cassettes, 6 cassettes; £17.25)

With Christmas in mind, I have chosen a selection of cassettes and albums for children which have something to offer to grown-ups as well.

For the youngest listeners, and to the accompaniment of generous helpings of rushing steam, William Rushton reads *Further Railway Stories* by the Rev W. Awdry. Between them, Rushton and Johnny Morris have recorded all the Railway Stories for Argo in five two-cassette sets, of which these 24 stories form the last set; the nostalgic sounds are authentic, from the old Transacord recording, well-remembered by railway enthusiasts.

Also for the very young, *Winnie-the-Pooh* and *The House at Pooh Corner*, in slightly shortened versions, are as warmly reassuring as ever but seem to gain a piquancy from Alan Bennett's gentle and endearing North-Country voice. Pooh and his friends are all beautifully defined and the forest both new and familiar, as ever.

The "animal magic" of Johnny Morris's many voices brings a contemporary shine to Kipling's wise old art, and creates something new and beguiling in the eight unabridged *Just So Stories. The Cat That Walked By Himself* is particularly charming in this reading.

Also unabridged, and lasting for three and a half hours (a fraction longer than the Kipling), is *Stig of the Dump*, for the 6 to 10-year-olds, one of the most original and most absorbing children's stories I know. Written some 20 years ago by Clive King and read very companionably by Martin Jarvis, it tells the story of how Barney, on holiday with his grandmother, tumbles accidentally into an old chalk-pit with a rubbish dump at the bottom, and finds it is inhabited by Stig, an adaptable and ingenious survivor from cave-man days, who becomes his friend.

For the 10-year-olds and upwards, the full-length *Treasure Island*, in this outstanding reading by David Buck (six cassettes, 7¼ hours), is treasure indeed, though it is likely to be borrowed by their elders for bedtime listening.

A hundred years after it was written, Stevenson's classic adventure story, full of treachery and bravery, avarice and horror, has not lost its appeal, and this production gives tension and excitement their full value. This set, and *Stig of the Dump* are obtainable by mail order from Cover to Cover Cassettes, Freepost, Marlborough, Wiltshire (067 286 495).

Mary Postgate

Power in the pen of an ironic magician



Mischief-maker: Salman Rushdie, dealing with fantasy and reality

Shame by Salman Rushdie (Picador, £2.95)

"As for me", Salman Rushdie writes in *Shame*, "I, too, like all migrants, am a fantasist. I build imaginary countries and try to impose them on the ones that exist." The country in question is Pakistan, and it is imaginary in its development as an historical concept, and for the fact that Rushdie's fictional country is, as he says, not quite Pakistan. Yet his country is Pakistan enough for its history to be recognizably similar to that of the Land of the Pure.

A satirical fable, often grotesque, sometimes profane, frequently meretricious, *Shame* poses a problem of response: to which facet of the book does one react? The high-flown fantasy of she-devils, parenthood and sexual yearning? The autobiographical, first person interjections which punctuate *Shame* rather like integrated footnotes? Or what amounts to a political satire based on the rise and fall of the executed Zulfidar Ali Bhutto?

Mr Rushdie himself may not be sure. One feels that one is reading three books simultaneously, of which only two are ultimately successful; and that can only lead to a feeling of dissatisfaction: a job lot, not quite a bargain.

Mr Rushdie has been hailed as a master fantasist. But it is the more extravagant mythical (fairy tale, he calls it) element of the book that seems most hollow. And it is his "footnotes" and satire (satire, of course, relies on footnotes – or at least knowledge of the object – for its effectiveness) which work best.

This is as much a book about Rushdie as anything else, and not only in its autobiographical passages. It is about his love-hate relationship with his native sub-continent. Most western-educated – and based – Indians and Pakistanis have to reconcile, sometimes with great difficulty, their sentimental longings with their distaste not for the poverty, but the venality, volatility and, above all, the hypocrisy so prevalent in that particular neck of the woods. Shame (the Urdu word *sharam* is more resonant) and honour, the progenitors of violence and the baubles of the hypocrite, are all well evoked.

Central to the book is the account of the rise and fall of Iskander Harappa and his successor as ruler of Rushdie's imaginary country, General Raza Hyder, who is based (unashamedly, but often very loosely) on Bhutto and General Zia. Here are the God-fearing puritan and the spoilt, arrogant former playboy: both shameless and hypocritical, each the father to the other. They are, he suggests, Robespierre and Danton.

Rushdie is at his best when talking about power and destiny, how the lives and fates of the powerful intertwine. He conjures up the archetype of Alexander, and the book is dotted with comic names and jokes which must be meaningless to the British reader). Iskander Harappa is a great man and," Rushdie says: "If a great man touches you, you age too quickly, you live too much and are used up". It applies to Harappa's mistress, Pinkie Aurangzeb – but it could equally apply to a nation. A great man, after all, seduces a nation, even makes it fall in love with him. Others merely rise to power.

Throughout, Mr Rushdie is the reflective, mischievous, omnipotent and deeply ironic magician, conscious of his power over his characters. This God-like role allows him to play with the reader and the book itself, sometimes most irritatingly.

Shame is undeniably a powerful, well observed and often deeply perceptive novel; but is its, like all man-made creations, imperfect.

Anwer Bati

Grave matters: Avenging a murder

Non-fiction

Highgate Cemetery, Victorian Valhalla, photographed by John Gay, introduced by Felix Barker (John Murray, £7.50)

Angels and Ministers of Grace superintend our tombs; and also lions, lambs, grand pianos, cricket stumps, balloons and obelisks in the great Highgate cemetery that has become a wonder of the world, and a wild-life reserve in the centre of London. John Gay's photographs taken over 20 years capture the changing moods and lights of the place where wild nature wrestles with high Victorian funerary art. The pictures and Felix Barker's history of the burial ground express a very special, very beautiful, very English corner of London.

The Best of JJ by John Junor (Unwin, £2.50)

Over the years the editor's column of opinion, rant, sentimentality, and bluff Scottish prejudice on the leader page of the *Sunday Express* has become a national institution. It has done more to put Auchtermuchty on the map than the Scottish Tourist Board, and more to reduce hostility to homosexuals that the Gay Liberation Front. Here is a slim vol of collected pieces that have not been dated by their topicality. In a prefatory "My Dear John" letter, refusing to write a foreword, the Prime Minister admits to being a regular reader: "I would add that the things that stuck in your gullet were the things that stuck in mine too!" The pieces are an example of Nature defeating Parody. JJ is the only reason for buying the *Sunday Express*. But even he is not enough to compensate for the embarrassment of being seen carrying it.



Observant: Henry Williamson, with an eye on nature

Eleni by Nicholas Gage (Fontana, £2.95)

Nicholas Gage was born Gatzoyiannis in northern Greece, near the Albanian border. As a small boy he was smuggled away from his village. His mother and the rest of his family who stayed behind were executed by Communist guerrillas in the pitiless Greek civil war. Gatzoyiannis was taken to America, educated, made good, and became an investigative reporter and foreign correspondent for the *New York Times*. Then he went back to Greece to investigate and avenge his mother's murder. This is his story, given the Royal Society of Literature Award last year when it was published in hardback, and soon to be made into a major film, Apollo help us. It has the implacability and Iron Age morality of something out of Sophocles, and explains the peculiar bloodiness and nobility of the Greeks.

Java, The Garden of the East by Eliza Ruhamah Scidmore (OUP Singapore, £10.50)

This book, first published in 1899, has been described as a "seminal work" (if you can bear that). It is an early account by an American writer of travel books, crammed with well written information on people, flora and fauna as seen at the end of the last century. Eliza Scidmore (1856-1928) enthuses about the Javanese, detests the Dutch colonials and their pompous officials, is deeply shocked by the naked ankles and bedroom slippers of women in their daily "dishabille"; but she does not hesitate to "Kodak" them.

She condescends to bow to the memory of Sir Stamford Raffles and other figures of the British empire, and writes flowingly and well about the country, its expensiveness, its steamy climate, lush greenery, unsatisfactory hotels, undrinkable coffee and "riz tavels" – mountainous dishes of curry and rice – while regretting the absence of Baedeker and Murray to guide her.

A Year Among the Persians by Edward Granville Browne (Century, £6.95)

Edward Granville Browne (1862-1926) was a Persian scholar and an orientalist. Son of a Newcastle civil engineer he hated Eton but had a lifelong attachment to Cambridge where a fellowship at Pembroke College enabled him to spend a year (1887-88) in Persia. Browne's mastery of oriental languages was remarkable. He could write equally well in Arabic, Persian and Turkish, and his ability to recall whole conversations enabled him to produce this book (1893) as his first major work. His account starts slowly but after a visit to Shiraz, the book races away in the company of poets, mystics, dervishes and a medicinal whiff of opium.

The Phasian Bird by Henry Williamson (Boydell Press, £4.95)

In *The Phasian Bird* the perils of fur, feather, tooth and claw run parallel with the troubled relationships of farmers and masters to labourers and men. Henry Williamson wove a wonderful cloth combining minute observation with the broadest view of nature. To me it brought home early memories of horse days in the country, in sight, sound and smell.

The book tells the story of Chee-Kai, an orphaned golden pheasant, brought up by a pair of partridges, Pertris and Perdix, in the context of the relationship between two farmers and their men. The story starts well, but like so many memories, seems to be unconvincing in its descriptions of human beings at the beginning of the Second World War.

Philip Howard and Gontran Goulden

Whodunnit: Tales of Trojans

Fiction

The Riverside Villas Murder by Kingsley Amis (Penguin, £1.95)

A 14-year-old schoolboy sits at home reading the *Daily Mirror* and dreaming of sex. Suddenly a man comes through the french windows with his head pouring blood, says "Hallo, hallo", and drops dead on the carpet. That is followed by anonymous letters, murder weapons falsely planted, a maze of alibis and enigmatic detectives scoring points off each other. It is a preposterous pastiche involving all that we love best in the old-fashioned whodunnit.

The detail is meticulous, whether it is the name of a cigarette brand or the exact shape of a £5 note. Tennis club dances, radio music, *Wizard* and Lifebuoy soap are all in place, and the inhabitants of Riverside Villas try hard to preserve their suburban niceties in spite of the melodrama foisted upon them. The Amis wit controls it all – making what is odd seem normal and what is commonplace bizarre.

Look at Me by Anita Brookner (Penguin, £1.95)

If *Hotel du Lac* is a work of perfect artifice, so is this. Frances Hinton has been brought up in the strongest traditions of good manners. She has been taught to conceal grief, never to parade her feelings in a way which might be tiresome to other people, always to preserve self control. When she gets caught up in a circle of friends who know nothing of this discipline, who flaunt their own rampant egotism to entertain each other, she realizes what she lacks and longs to share their greed and gaiety.

This novel is for anyone who knows what it is like to feel invisible among a group of laughing friends and to walk away from heartbreak trying to look nonchalant and amused. The message is not new but it is sad and clear: those who are beautiful and selfish get what they want, it is the self disciplined who end up slighted and lonely. And over this realization looms the tyrant, Christmas, ready to mock the pathos of failed expectation.



Meticulous: Kingsley Amis, with a preposterous pastiche

Malgudi Days by R. K. Narayan (Penguin, £2.50)

Narayan has created the imaginary city of Malgudi and already described it through the eyes of Raman the sign painter. Now, in these short stories, he fills out further details of the lives and the worries and aspirations of the people who live there. Taken together the stories present a complete sociological survey. They describe the postman's relationship with the families on his round, the doctor's manner with his patient and the sculptor's attitude to his work. The most telling details of domestic life are picked out and polished in such a way that Malgudi begins to demand the reader's loyalty as if it were his own home town.

Cassandra by Christa Wolf (Virago, £4.50)

In this extraordinary medley of classical learning, feminist consciousness and traveller's tales, Christa Wolf emerges as an energetic personality. The first part of the book is a retelling of the story of the conflict between the Greeks and Trojans told through the eyes of Cassandra. Her terrible burden of truth and hysteria, the effect she has on other people, and they on her, is shaped into a passionate discussion of war and the sensibilities of both men and women in a situation where disaster is inevitable.

The second part of the book is a series of lectures on the same "Cassandra" themes. The author takes a more personal approach, carefully juxtaposing her study of the possible life of the prophetess in ancient times with an account of her own feelings while on a tourist journey through modern Greece. Her "overall concern", she says, "is the sinister effects of alienation in aesthetics, in art, as well as elsewhere".

Anne Barnes

GALLERIES — THE WEEK — DANCE



Jean Michel Basquiat's rise has been as meteoric as any pop star's, writes Prudence Hone. An exhibition of his paintings opens today in London. Earlier this week he was completing a diptych for the show made from slats of wood nailed on to a rigid framework reminiscent of the materials on which Basquiat began to paint – pavements, walls, hoardings. New York City, where he was born and he grew up, is alive with street art. Flashing signs, advertising posters and graffiti cover the city; subway trains are daubed with the hieroglyphs of a vivid culture in flux. Why or how the 24-year-old artist made the transition from the art of the streets to the rarer atmosphere of galleries is unrecorded.

Jean Michel Basquiat: Paintings 1981-1984 opens at the ICA, The Mall, London SW1 today. Until Jan 27, Tues-Sun noon-9pm.

Openings

EIGHT AT THE WHITE SPACE: Computer graphics mix with more conventional media in this show by eight artists, most of whom are concerned with recurring patterns in nature. Robert Dixon, Alan Senior and Julia Bath are among the contributors.
White Space Gallery, 6 Shillingford Street, London N1 (884 0945). Opens Mon, until Dec 22, Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-2pm.

CHRISTMAS EXHIBITION: A mixed show which includes a few of John Wragg's resin heads of women, and small, intimate collages by Sophie Johnson.
Quinton Green Fine Arts, 5/6 Cork Street, London W1 (734 9179). Opens Tues, until Jan 21, Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-12.30pm.

Selected

VIDEO TIMES
Kettles Yard, Northampton Street, Cambridge (0223 352124). Until Fri, 12.30-5.30pm except Sun, 2-5.30pm, no perf Mon
Kevin Atherton's installation consists of a video, showing himself looking at a television screen looking at you, looking at him. An accompanying booklet (a sort of combined *TV* and *Radio Times*) details each moment on screen.

LET ME SHOW YOU MY ETCHINGS FATHER CHRISTMAS
Bankside Gallery, 48 Hopton Street, Blackfriars, London SE1 (928 7521). Until Dec 23, Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-6pm
Mixed show of original work by members of the Royal Societies of Painters in Water-Colours and Painter-etchers and Engravers, which range from delicately executed wood-engravings to traditional landscapes.

THE ART OF THE ARCHITECT
Royal Institute of British Architects, 66 Portland Place, London W1 (580 5533). Until Jan 27, Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm
Fascinating exhibition from the institute's collections. It ranges from designs by the great Renaissance architect Andrea Palladio to Inigo Jones's self-portrait. There is also a selection of models, books and manuscripts.

AESOP'S FABLES Portal Gallery, 16a Grafton Street, London W1 (493 0706). Until Jan 5, Mon-Fri 10am-5.45pm, Sat 11am-2pm
Mixed exhibition of gallery artists illustrating the fables; a great variety of styles, some amusing interpretations and one small, beautifully framed painting by Barry Castle which seems to capture Aesop's enduring insight into human nature.

MICHAEL LLOYD/ALISTAIR McCALLUM
Oxford Gallery, 23 High Street, Oxford (0865 242731). Until Jan 3, Mon-Sat 10am-5pm
Two artists working in precious metals, but with very different styles: Lloyd produces chased silver bowls, McCallum uses *mokumé*, a technique which blends the metals together so that they swirl into patterns resembling melting ice creams.

AN ARCHITECTURAL QUEST: FROM BARCELONA TO THE BALTIC
Francis Kyle Gallery, 9 Maddox Street, London W1 (499 6870). Until Jan 11, Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 11am-1pm
Glynn Boyd Harte's recent watercolours range from the austere neo-classicism of the Altes Museum in Berlin to the organic forms of Gaudi's Casa Mila in Barcelona. The show includes interiors of The Hermitage in Leningrad and Mackintosh's Willow Tea Rooms in Glasgow.

DESIGNS FOR DANCES
Arnolfini Gallery, Narrow Quay, Bristol (0272 299194). Until Jan 13, Tues-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm
Original designs by Bakst, Braque, Leger and John Piper are on show, together with models of set designs by Bridget Riley, Richard Smith and David Hockney celebrating 75 years of artists' involvement with ballet.

RICHARD HAMILTON: PRINTS 1939-83
Waddington Graphics, 2-4 Cork Street, London W1 (439 1866). Until Dec 22, Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-1pm
Hamilton's impact comes from the juxtapositions of the bizarre and the commonplace. The show includes the famous prints of Marilyn Monroe, Bing Crosby and Mick Jagger . . . and the notorious vase of flowers.

CHINESE ORNAMENT: THE LOTUS AND THE DRAGON
British Museum, London WC1 (636 1555). Until May 5, Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-6pm
Fascinating journey through decorative motifs, from ancient Egypt and classical Greece to China. Lotus patterns and acanthus scrolls were appropriated by Chinese porcelain painters to wonderful effect.

WILLIAM MORRIS
Graves Art Gallery, Surrey Street, Sheffield (0742 734781). Until Jan 6, Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-5pm
Celebrating the 150th anniversary of Morris's birth, the exhibition concentrates on his designs for carpets, embroideries, furniture, tapestries, stained glass and also his wallpaper and fabrics.

HENRI MATISSE: SCULPTURE AND DRAWINGS
Hayward Gallery, South Bank, London SE1 (928 3144). Until Jan 6, Mon-Wed 10am-8pm, Thurs-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun noon-6pm
A show that concentrates on all the effort behind the apparently effortless masterpieces, representing work from every stage in Matisse's career.

Sarah Jane Checkland and Prudence Hone

On tour: Rakusy, from the Josef Koudelka exhibition

Photography

JOSEF KOUDELKA
Cambridge Darkroom, Dales Brewery, Gwydir Street, Cambridge (0223 350725). Until Feb 3, Tues-Sat noon-8pm, Sun noon-6pm
The best photographic exhibition of 1984 leaves London for a short provincial tour beginning in Cambridge. Although slightly condensed the prints lose none of their extraordinary power. Koudelka is a solitary figure who is difficult to pin down, living a nomadic existence in Europe, following gypsy festivals and religious events. His best known pictures are of these events but more personal works, still lifes and landscapes are also to be seen. *Not to be missed.*

NINE BY NINE
Olympus Gallery, 24 Princes Street, London W1 (491 7591). Until Jan 24, Mon-Fri 11am-6.30pm
An assortment of photographs from some top names including Bailey, Lichfield, Lartigue, Ralph Gibson and Don McCullin, each contributing nine prints. Nebulous to say the least but some gold buried among the dross.

DUANE MICHALS
Museum of Modern Art, 30 Pembroke Street, Oxford (0865 72233). Until Feb 3, Tues-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm. Closed Dec 24-Jan 1
The first one-man exhibition for Michals in the United Kingdom. It covers 1958-84 and includes early portraits and the more recent sequence photographs with texts. Often the texts seem more interesting than the contrived drama in the photographs.

SRI LANKA
Terrace Entrance Foyer, National Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (928 2252). From Thurs until Jan 25, Mon-Sat 10am-11pm
Tim Page made his reputation with photographs taken during the Vietnam war. This exhibition presents a more gentle side of his nature.

Photography: Michael Young; Dance: John Percival

Dance

No Christmas, it seems, is complete without The Nutcracker. This year there are three productions: a new one at Covent Garden, and revivals by Festival Ballet and the Scottish Ballet. But alternative choices are available, although in limited supply.

ROYAL BALLET
Covent Garden (240 1066). Wed, Thurs at 7.30pm, Fri at 2.30 and 7.30pm
Peter Wright's new staging of *The Nutcracker*, with Gennadi Rozhdestvensky conducting, has its premiere Thurs at a royal gala for charity, with Lesley Collier and Anthony Dowell in the leads. Performances on Fri feature Ravenna Tucker and Jay Jolley (matinée), Fiona Chadwick and Wayne Eagling (evening). On Wed, Bryony Brind and Jonathan Cope dance *Swan Lake*.

SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET
Sadler's Wells (278 8916). Opens Tues until Jan 5. Mon-Sat (not Dec 24, 25) at 7.30pm, matinées Sat and Dec 26 at 2.30pm, Dec 19 at 2pm
The season opens with a mixed bill (Tues-Thurs) in which Ashton's *The Dream* is supported by MacMillan's *Concerto* and *Elite Syncopations*, plus André Prokovsky's duet *Vocalise*. Fri brings *Coppélia* with Margaret Barbieri, Alain Dubreuil and David Bintley in the leads.

FESTIVAL BALLET
Birmingham Hippodrome (021 622 7486). Today at 2.30 and 7.30pm
Today's performances of *The Nutcracker*, in Ronald Hynd's production, are danced by Lucia Truglia and Patrick Armand (matinée), Mary McKendry and Peter Schaufuss (evening).

SCOTTISH BALLET
Glasgow, Theatre Royal (041-331 1234). Wed at 7.15pm, Matinée Sat at 2.15pm
Peter Darrell's production of *The Nutcracker* has designs by Philip Prowse and various casts.

Christmas shows

AROUND THE REGIONS

ABERDEEN: His Majesty's (0224 638080). Aladdin. Until Jan 5. Mon-Sat at 7pm; matinées at 2.30pm Dec 8, 15, 22, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, Jan 2-5. £2.50-£6.50
Allan Stewart, Peter Morrison, Edwina Lawrie, Denny Willis, Peter Wyngarde, Louise English, Miranda Coe.

BATH: Theatre Royal (0225 65065). Dick Whittington. Dec 22-Feb 2, Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matinées Mon-Sat until Jan 12, then Wed to Sat, all at 2.30pm. £3-£8; £2-£6 from Jan 7
Eric Sykes, Andrew Sachs, Norman Rossington, Chris Harris, Norman Vaughan, Cheryl Taylor etc.

BELFAST: Lyric Players (0232 660081). Annie by Charles Strouse, Martin Charnin, Thomas Meehan. Until Jan 12. Mon-Sat at 8pm; matinées on some days. £3-£4.50
The "Little Orphan Annie" musical in a local production.

BIRMINGHAM: Alexandra (021 643 1231). Cinderella. Dec 22-Feb 2, Mon-Sat at 7pm; matinées Mon-Sat Dec 26-Jan 5, then Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat; from Jan 21 Tues, Wed and Sat all at 2.30pm. £1-£6
Lavish production with Lionel and Joyce Blair, Paula Wilcox, Anthony Steel, Derek Fowlds, Fred Evans, with Anna Neagle, Jacqueline Reddin.

BIRMINGHAM: Hippodrome (021 622 7486). Cannon & Ball Christmas Spectacular. Dec 21-Feb 16. Mon and Tues at 7.30pm, Wed-Sat at 6.10 and 8.40pm, with some Fridays at 7.30pm
Variety bill including Marti Caine, Bryan Marshall, speciality acts.

BIRMINGHAM: Repertory Theatre (021 236 4455). Treasure Island. Dec 21-Feb 9. Mon-Sat at 7pm; matinées Sat at 3pm. £3.50-£6.50. Concs and party rates
Musical adaptation of R. L. Stevenson's pirate tale: book and lyrics by Willis Hall; music by Denis King. Jack Douglas and Bob Grant.

BLACKBURN: King George's Hall (0254 582582). Dick Whittington. Dec 27-Jan 5, at 10.30am, 2.30 and 7.15pm: daily variations. £2. Concs and party rates
Local entertainers Stan Tate and Terry Barber head the cast.

BLACKPOOL: Grand (0253 28372). Mr Cinders. Until Jan 5. Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matinées (vary) at 2.30pm. £2.30-£5. Concs and party rates
Graham Fletcher and Carol Brooks in the 1920s musical comedy success by Clifford Grey, Greatrex Newman, Leo Robin, Vivian Ellis and Richard Myers.

BOGNOR: Regis Centre, Alexandra Theatre (0243 865551). Magical Merlin. Dec 18-Jan 12. Dec 18-20 at 10am and 1.30pm; Dec 22 at 10.30am and 2.30pm. No perfs Dec 23-25. Dec 26 at 2.30 and 6.30pm; Dec 28-Jan 12, Mon-Sat at 2.30pm. £2. Party rates.
Dracula's Christmas Surprise. Dec 27-Jan 12. Mon-Sat at 7.30pm. £2.50-£3.50. Party rates
The first show is for children and families, the second for teenagers and "fun-loving adults".

BOLTON: Octagon (0204 20407). The Gingerbread Man. Until Jan 19. Mon-Sat 7.30pm; matinées Sat at 2.30pm; some weekday matinées 10am and 2.30pm. £2-£3.10. Concs and party rates
David Wood's popular musical for children, with Guy Burgess in the title role.

BOURNEMOUTH: Pavilion (0202 25861). Goldilocks and The Three Bears. Dec 20-Jan 19. Daily incl Sun at 7pm; matinées Mon-Sat at 2.30pm, Sun at 3pm. £3-£5. Concs and party rates
Ted Rogers, Lynsey de Paul, Gareth Hunt, Michael Sharvell-Martin, Malcolm Roberts, Nell Buchanan, Brian Jacks.

BRIGHTON: Theatre Royal (0273 28488). Dick Whittington. Dec 21-Jan 19. Mon-Sat at 2.30 and 7.30pm (no matinée Dec 21; matinée only Dec 24) until Jan 7, then Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matinées Tues, Thurs and Sat at 2.30pm. £2-£6. Concs and party rates
Christopher Biggins, Sheila Burnette, Catherine Rabett, Kit and the Widow.

BRIGHTON: Gardner Centre (0273 685861). The Gingerbread Man. Dec 22-Jan 12. Dec 22, 24, 26-29, 31, Jan 1-5, 9-11 at 2.30pm; Dec 26, 28-29, Jan 1-5, 8-12 at 7pm. £3-£4. Concs and party rates
Brighton Actors Workshop in David Wood's musical play for children.

BRISTOL: Hippodrome (0272 299444). Aladdin. Dec 22-Mar 2. Mon-Sat at 2 and 7pm until Jan 5, then Mon-Sat at 7pm, matinées on various days. £2-£7. Concs and party rates
Little and Large, Isla St Clair, Alfred Marks.

BRISTOL: Theatre Royal, Old Vic (0272 24388). Peter Pan. Dec 18-Feb 9. Mon-Wed at 7.15pm, Thurs-Sat at 7.45pm; matinées Dec 20, 22, 27-29, 31, Jan 1-5, 9, 10, 12 at 3pm. No perfs Dec 24, 25. From Jan 12: evenings at 7pm, matinées at 3pm, but schedule varies. 90p-£8 (boxes £9 and £12). Concs and party rates
J. M. Barrie's classic fairy tale.

BRISTOL: New Vic (0272 24388). Tomfoolery. Dec 17-Feb 9. Mon-Wed at 7.15pm, Thurs-Sat at 7.45pm; matinées Dec 26 and Jan 1 at 3pm. £3.50. Concs and party rates
Robin Ray and Cameron Mackintosh's revue of the words and music of US writer Tom Lehrer: sharp fun for adults.

CAMBRIDGE: Arts (0223 352000). Jack and the Beanstalk. Until Jan 12. Dec 17-19 at 7pm, then: Mon – Sat at 2.30 and 7pm. No perf Dec 25. £4.60 – £5.60. Concs and party rates
Toni Arthur, Peter Byrne, Richard Murdoch, Mark Curry, David Crosse, Ellen Thomas and Lucia Skeaping.

CARDIFF: New Theatre (0222 383431). Robin Hood. Dec 17 – Feb 9. Mon – Sat at 2.30pm and 7pm; also at 10.30am, Dec 22, 29, Jan 5. £2.25 – £5. Concs and party rates
Ruth Madoc, Stu Francis, Kim Braden, Anna Karen, Douglas Fielding.

CHELTENHAM: Town Hall (0242 523690). Aladdin and his Wonderful Lamp. Dec 17 – Jan 12. Perfs at 10.15am, 2pm, 2.30 5 and 7pm, on different days. £3 – £4. Concs and party rates
Bill Simpson, Fogwell Flax, Macdonald Hobley and Peter Denyer.

CHESTER: Gateway (0244 40392). Rainbow Man. Until Jan 19. Mon-Fri at 2pm, Sat at 2.30pm, Dec 17 and 18, Jan 15-17 at 10.30am; Dec 15, 19-22, 26-29, Jan 1, 3-5, 8-12, 18 and 19 at 7pm. No perfs Dec 24, 25. £2.75-£4. Concs and party rates
Flying Tortoise Company in a new musical play for 5-11-year-olds.

CHESTERFIELD: Pomegranate (0246 32901). Cinderella. Dec 21-Jan 12. Until Jan 5: Mon-Sat at 2.30 and 7pm. Jan 7-11 at 7pm; Jan 12 at 2.30pm and 7pm. £2.50-£3. Concs and party rates
Frank Williams, Harry Dignam, Isobel Arnett in traditional show.

CHICHESTER: Festival Theatre. (0243 781312). Babes in the Wood. Until Jan 12. Mon-Sat at 7pm; matinées at 2pm from Dec 15. matinée only Dec 24, no perf Dec 25. £4-£7.50. Concs and party rates.
Spike Milligan, Evelyn Laye, Bill Pertwee, John Clegg, Barry Gosney, Julie Dawn Cole, Janet Mahoney.

COLCHESTER: Mercury (0206 573948). Cinderella. Until Jan 19. Mon - Sat at 7pm; matinées Mon - Sat until Jan 5, and Jan 10, 12, 17, 19; Dec 27, 29 at 2, 5, 8pm. No perfs Dec 24, 25. £2 - £4.85. Concs and party rates
Traditional pantomime.

COLNE: Municipal Hall (0282 864721) Jack and the Beanstalk. Dec 26 - Jan 12. Mon - Fri at 2.15 and 7.15pm, Sat at 10.15am, 2.15pm and 7.15pm; Dec 31 at 2.15pm only. £2. Concs and party rates
Rosemary Squires stars in traditional pantomime.

COVENTRY: Belgrade (0203 553055). Until Jan 19. Aladdin and his Wonderful Lamp. Mon - Sat at 2.30 and 7pm. £2.75 - £5. Concs and party rates
Joanna Munro, Brian Rawlinson, Leni Harper, Iain Lauchlan in a traditional pantomime by Bob Carlton and Stephen Wyatt.



DARLINGTON: Civic Theatre (0325 486555). The Magic World of Aladdin. Until Jan 19. Mon - Sat at 2.30 and 7.30pm; no perfs Dec 24, 25; matinées Dec 14, Jan 7, 8, 11, 14, 15, 17, 18. £1.80 - £4.50. Concs and party rates
Master Illusionist Faust, with Iris Williams, Scott Wynter, Ling Tai and Paul Shearstone; a blend of traditional pantomime and magic show.

DERBY: Playhouse (0332 363275). Meg and Mog. Until Jan 19. Mon-Sat at 2pm in school term time, 2.30pm in the holidays. Charlie's Aunt. Dec 19-Jan 19. Mon-Sat at 7.30pm, Fri and Sat at 8pm. £4-£6. Concs and party rates
David Wood's musical show is for children; the revival of the classic comedy of deception should please all ages.

DUBLIN: Abbey (0001 744505). The Merchant of Venice. Until Feb 2. Mon-Sat at 8pm. £4-£7. Concs and party rates
The Abbey Players in a not-especially-seasonal production.

DUNDEE: Repertory (0382 23530). Alice in Wonderland. Until Jan 5. Mon-Sat at 7.15pm; matinées various days at 2.30pm. £3.25-£4. Concs and party rates
Local repertory company in traditional show.

EASTBOURNE: Congress (0323 36363). Aladdin. Dec 26-Jan 26. Mon-Sat at 7.30pm in Dec, 6.30pm in Jan; matinées Mon-Sat at 2.30pm, and Sun at 3pm from Dec 30. No perfs Jan 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22. £2.50-£5.50. Concs and party rates
Frankie Howerd, Trevor Bannister, Anna Dawson in traditional show.

EDINBURGH: Kings (031 229 1201). Sinbad the Sailor. Until Feb 2. Mon-Sat at 7pm; matinées Wed and Sat and Dec 26-29 at 2.15pm. No perfs Dec 25, Jan 1. £2.50-£5.50. Concs and party rates
Johnny Beattie, Una McQueen, Christian, in traditional show.

EDINBURGH: Royal Lyceum (031 229 9697). The Snow Queen. Until Jan 5. Perfs at 10am, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8pm; according to the day. £2.40-£4.80. Concs and party rates
Stuart Paterson's adaptation of the Hans Christian Andersen story, with music by Derek Watson; recommended especially for 5-14 year olds.

EPSOM: Playhouse. (78 42555). Jack and the Beanstalk II. Dec 20-Jan 5, Mon-Sat at 2.30pm; Dec 20-22, Jan 3-5 at 7.30pm, Dec 26-29 at 7pm. No perf Dec 25. £3.50. Concs and party rates
Traditional pantomime, written by Peter Corey and Graham Stansfield

EXETER: Northcott (0392 54853). Toad of Toad Hall. Dec 20-Jan 19. Mon-Fri at 7.30pm (Dec 26-28 at 8pm), Sat at 8pm; matinées Dec 26-29, Jan 2-5, Jan 12-19 at 4pm. School Jan 10, and 15 at 1.30pm. £4-£6. Concs and party rates
A. A. Milne's adaptation (with music by H. Fraser Simson) of Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows*, in a production designed by Raymond Briggs.

FARNHAM: Redgrave (0252 715301). Annie. Until Jan 19. Mon-Sat at 8pm; matinées Wed-Fri at 2.30pm, Sat at 4pm. No matinée Dec 12, no perfs Dec 24, 25. Matinées Dec 26 at 4pm, no matinées Jan 16, 18. £3.45-£5.25. Concs and party rates
The "Little Orphan Annie" musical.

GLASGOW: Citizens' (041 429 0022). The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe. Until Jan 12. Mon-Sat at 7.30pm. £1-£3
Andrew Alty's adaptation of the C. S. Lewis book for children.

GLASGOW: King's Theatre (041 331 1234). The Sleeping Beauty. Until Feb 9. Mon-Sat at 7pm; matinées at 2.15pm Dec 17-22, Dec 24-29, Dec 31-Jan 5 and on some other days. No perfs Dec 25, Jan 1. £1-£5.40. Concs and party rates.
Rikki Fulton, Walter Carr, in traditional show.

GLASGOW: Theatre Royal (041 331 1234). The Nutcracker. Dec 19-29. Mon-Sat at 7.15pm; matinées Dec 24, Dec 27-29 at 2.15pm. £2.40-£12. Concs and party rates
The Scottish Ballet, in the Tchaikovsky ballet.

GUILDFORD: Yvonne Arnaud (0483 60191). The Wind in the Willows. Dec 18-Jan 12. Mon-Sat at 2.30 and 7pm. No perfs Dec 25. £4.20-£7. Concs and party rates
Terry Scott, Patrick Cargill, Melvyn Hayes in an adaptation by Willis Hall (music by Denis King) of the Kenneth Grahame book. To be presented subsequently at Sadler's Wells.

HAMPSHIRE (on tour): Solent People's Theatre (0703 443943). Spellbinder. Until Jan 19. At community centres, theatres, in schools and hospitals, etc throughout Hampshire, for one or two performances at each
Pantomime written by Phil Smith and presented on tour by a Southampton-based community theatre group.

HARROGATE: Harrogate (0423 502116). Hans Andersen. Dec 20-Jan 19. Mon-Sat at 2.30 and 7pm. £2.15-£4. Concs and party rates
The story of the writer of fairy stories; with music.

HULL: New (0482 20463). Dick Whittington. Dec 17-Jan 26. Mon-Sat at 7pm; matinées Mon-Sat Dec 20-Jan 8, then Thurs and Sat at 2.15pm. £2-£5. Concs and party rates
Charlie Williams, Bobby Knutt, Ronnie Cryer and Frankie Desmonde in a traditional show.

HULL: Spring Street (0482 23638). A Christmas Carol. Until Jan 11. Mon-Sat at 7.45pm; schools matinées at 2pm; Sat at 4pm, also Dec 24 at 4pm. No perfs Dec 25. £2-£2.75. Concs and party rates
John Godber's adaptation of the Charles Dickens classic.




INVERNESS: Eden Court (0463 221718). Jack and the Beanstalk. Until Jan 5. Mon-Sat at 2.30pm and 7.30pm. No perfs Dec 25, Jan 1. £4.50-£5.50. Concs and party rates
Jimmy Logan, George Duffus, in a traditional show.

IPSWICH: Wolsey (0473 53725). Annie. Dec 20-Jan 26. Tues-Fri at 7.45pm, Sat at 8pm; matinées Wed at 2.30pm, Sat at 4.45pm. No perf Dec 25. £2.50-£4.90. Concs and party rates
The "Little Orphan Annie" musical. Local company production.

KIRKCALDY: Adam Smith (0592 260498). Dick Whittington. Until Jan 26. Mon-Sat at 7pm; matinées Sat at 2pm, Dec 24-29, Dec 31-Jan 5 at 2pm (no perfs Dec 25, Jan 1), £2-£4. Concs and party rates
Mary Lee, Des King, in a traditional show.

LANCASTER: Duke's Playhouse (0524 66645). Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves. Until Jan 12. Mon-Sat at 2pm (not Jan 8, 10); Dec 15, 17-22, 26-29, Dec 31-Jan 5, Jan 8-12 at 7pm. No perfs Dec 24, 25, Jan 1, Jan 7. £3.50. Concs and party rates
Traditional show.

LEATHERHEAD: Thorndike (0372 377677). Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. Until Jan 12. Mon, Tues, Thurs, Sat at 7.30pm, Wed and Fri at 8pm; matinées on various days. £3-£5.30. Concs and party rates
Bill Buckley as Joseph in the continuingly popular Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber musical version of the Old Testament story.

LEEDS: City Varieties (0532 430808). Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. Dec 20 for a season. Mon-Fri at 7pm; matinées Mon-Fri at 2.30pm; Sat at 2pm, 4.45 and 7.30pm. £2.75-£4. Concs and party rates
Dave Peters, Carole Bianco, Bobby King, Norma Redfearn, and seven dwarfs.

LEEDS: Playhouse (0532 442111). Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Dec 20-Jan 19. Thurs-Sat at 7pm; matinées 10.15am Jan 8, 9, 15, 16; 2pm Dec 20-22, Jan 8-11, 15-17; 3pm Dec 22, 26-29, 31, Jan 2-5, 12. No perfs Dec 24, 25, Jan 1, Jan 7, 14. £3.20-£4.20. Concs and party rates
Jeremy Raison and the English Touring Company have adapted Roald Dhal's story featuring some greedy children and Willy Wonka.

LEICESTER: Haymarket (0533 530021). Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Until Jan 5, Dec 15, 21, 22, Mon-Sat from Dec 26, all at 1.30pm. £2.50
The Roald Dahl story, this time adapted by Richard Williams, with music.

LEICESTER: Phoenix Arts (0533 554854). Alice in Wonderland. Until Jan 19. Tues-Sat at 7.30pm; Dec 26, 27 at 6pm; matinées Tues-Fri at 2pm, Sat at 2.30pm; some perfs at 10am. £3.25. Concs and party rates
Stage adaptation of the Lewis Carrol story.

LIVERPOOL: Empire (051 709 1555). Christmas Variety. Until Dec 29. Dec 17-20, 26 and 27 at 7.30pm; Dec 15, 21, 22, 28, 29 at 5pm and 8pm; matinées Dec 26, 27 at 2.30pm. No perfs Dec 24, 25. £2.95-£4.95. Concs and party rates
Tom O'Connor, Bobby Davro, Vince Hill, Pavlov's Puppets, etc.
Jesus Christ Superstar. Jan 1-Feb 2. Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matinées Jan 2-5, 7-12, 19, 26, Feb 2 at 2.30pm. £2.95-£4.95. Concs and party rates
The Andrew Lloyd Webber/Tim Rice musical re-telling of the final week of the life of Christ.

LIVERPOOL: Everyman (051 709 4776). From a Jack to a King. Until Jan 5. Tues-Sat at 8pm; matinées on various days. £2-£3.50. Concs and party rates.
Blend of Shakespeare (Macbeth), fantasy and 1950s and 1960s rock'n'roll, by Bob Carlton.

MALVERN: Festival Theatre (06845 3377). Dick Whittington and Wondercat. Dec 26-Jan 5. Dec 26-29, 31, Jan 1, 4, 5 at 7pm; matinées Dec 26-29, 31, Jan 1, 2; 5 at 2.30pm. No perf Jan 3. £2.75-£3.25. Concs and party rates.
Malvern Theatre Players in the David Wood musical play for children and families.

MANCHESTER: Library Theatre (061 236 7110) Nutcracker Sweet. Until Jan 26. Tues-Sat at 7pm until Dec 24; Jan 7-26; matinées on most days at 2.30pm. £2.80-£3.40. Concs and party rates.
One of David Wood's musical plays for children and families.

A Christmas Carol. Dec 19-Jan 5. Tues-Sat at 7.30pm. No perf Dec 25. £4 (incl buffet). Concs and party rates.
World premiere of musical play adapted from the Charles Dickens story by David Ponting and Paul Mitchell-Davison.

MANCHESTER: Palace (061 236 9922). Aladdin. Until Jan 26. Mon - Sat at 7.30pm; matinées Mon-Fri at 2.30pm, Sat at 4pm. Dec 24 at 4pm and 7.30pm; no perf Dec 25; Jan 1 at 4pm and 7.30pm. £3.50-£7.50. Concs and party rates.
Tommy Trinder, Su Pollard, Matthew Kelly, Derek Griffiths, Edmund Hockridge, Anneka Rice and Bob Carolgees with Ted Moult.

MANCHESTER: Royal Exchange (061 833 9833). The Admirable Crichton. Until Jan 19. Dec 13 at 7pm, Mon and Tues at 7.30pm, Wed-Sat at 8pm; matinées Wed at 2.30pm, Sat at 4pm. No perf Dec 25. £4-£8. Concs and party rates.
J M. Barrie's satirical comedy of the English class system in which an aristocratic family and butler are marooned on a desert island.

MUSSELBURGH: Brunton (031 665 3711). Dick Whittington. Until Jan 12, Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matinées Dec 17-20, 24, 26, Jan 2, 7, 9, 12 and Sats at 2.30pm. No perfs Dec 25, 31, Jan 1. £2-£3.50. Concs and party rates
Traditional show with Ron Coburn.

NEWARK: The Palace (0636 71156). Aladdin. Jan 22-26. Tues-Sat at 7.30pm; matinée Jan 26 at 2pm. £1.50-£2.50. Concs and party rates.
Traditional pantomime.

NEWBURY: Watermill (0635 46044). Pinocchio. Until Jan 5. Mon-Sat at 2pm and/or 5pm. No perfs Dec 24, 25. £3.50-£5.75. Concs and party rates
Euan Smith's adaptation of the original story, a family musical, especially suitable for 5-12-year-olds.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE: Playhouse (0632 323421). The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. Until Jan 18. Perfs at 10am, 1.45pm, 2pm and 7pm, varying according to the day. No perf Dec 25. £3.75. Concs and party rates
Ken Hill's adaptation of the C. S. Lewis book, with songs by Brendan Healy.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE: Theatre Royal (0632 322061). Cinderella. Until Jan 26. Mon-Sat at 7pm; matinées Mon-Sat at 2pm until Jan 5, then Thurs and Sat only at 2pm. No perf Dec 25. £1.50-£4.50. Concs and party rates
The Krankies, Paula Ann Bland, Julie Rogers, Lambert & Ross, Charlie Carroll Jr.

NORWICH: Theatre Royal (0603 28205). Goldilocks and the Three Bears. Dec 21-Feb 9. Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matinées Mon-Sat at 2.30pm until Jan 5, then on most days. £4-£5.80. Concs and party rates
Wayne Sleep, Anne Aston, Rusty Goffe.




NOTTINGHAM: Playhouse (0602 419419). Jack and the Beanstalk. Until Jan 5. Mon-Sat at 2.30pm and 7.30pm; 10am on Dec 19. £4.75. Concs and party rates
Repertory company in traditional show.

NOTTINGHAM: Theatre Royal (0602 472328). Cinderella. Dec 22-Mar 2. Mon-Sat at 2pm and 7.15pm (Dec 22-Jan 5, Feb 18-23), otherwise Mon-Sat at 7.15pm; matinées Tues, Wed and Thurs at 2pm, Sat at 10.30am and 2.30pm. £3-£7. Concs and party rates
Roy Hudd, Bernard Bresslaw, Windsor Davies. Deborah Watling in a lavish show.

OLDHAM: Coliseum (061 624 2829). Red Riding Hood. Until Jan 12. Perfs vary; most days Mon-Sat at 2.30pm, Thurs-Sat at 7.30pm; some days also at 10am; extra 7.30 perfs Dec 24, 31, Jan 2, 7-9. No perfs Dec 25, 26. £3.70. Concs and party rates
Jeffrey Longmore, Julia Ford, in Kenneth Alan Taylor's version of the fairy tale, presented as a traditional pantomime.

OXFORD: Playhouse (0865 247133). Whirligig Theatre in David Wood's adventure for children
The Wind in the Willows. Dec 24-Jan 5. Mon-Fri at 2.30pm, Sat at 11am and 2pm. No perf Dec 25. £2-£3. Concs and party rates
Polka Children's Theatre in Richard Gill's adaptation of Kenneth Grahame's book, especially for 6-11-year-olds.

PETERBOROUGH: Key (0733 52439). Aladdin. Until Jan 19. Mon-Fri at 2.15 and 7pm; Sat at 1.30, 4.30, 7.30pm; with variations. £2.75-£4. Concs and party rates
Traditional family pantomime, with Ron Copsey, Paul Burton, Alex McKinley, Carla McLaine.

PLYMOUTH: Theatre Royal (0752 669595). Mother Goose. Dec 18-Jan 26. Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matinées Dec 18-22, 26-29, Dec 31-Jan 5, then Tues, Thurs and Sat at 2.30pm; Dec 24 at 4pm only. £3.50-£7. Concs and party rates
Danny La Rue, Peggy Mount and full supporting company.

READING: Hexagon (0734 591591). Cinderella. Dec 17-Jan 12. Mon-Fri at 7pm, Sat at 8pm (also 8pm Jan 10, 11); matinées Mon-Fri at 2.30pm until Jan 4, Sat at 4.30pm, and at 1pm and 4.30pm Dec 31, 1pm Jan 7-9, 4.30pm Jan 10, 11. No perf Dec 23, 25, 30, Jan 6. £3-£4.50. Concs and party rates
David Copperfield, Roger de Courcey and Nookie Bear, Felix Bowness, Bella Emberg, Sarah Greene.

SALISBURY: Playhouse (0722 20333). Dick Whittington. Until Jan 26. Mon-Sat at 2.30pm and 7.15pm until Jan 5, then Mon-Sat at 7.15pm; matinées Thurs and Sat at 2.30pm. No perf Dec 25. £2.40-£4.20. Concs and party rates
Traditional pantomime by Henry Marshall.

SHEFFIELD: Crucible (0742 79922). Aladdin. Dec 26-Feb 2. Dress rehearsal Dec 24 at 4pm. Mon-Sat at 2.30pm and 7pm; Jan 16 at 10.30am, Jan 7 at 7pm only. £2-£4.50. Concs and party rates
John Morley's traditional pantomime with Tracie Bennett, Mike Newman, David Ross.

SOUTHAMPTON: Nuffield (0703 555028). The Gingerbread Man. Until Jan 5. Mon-Sat at 3pm and 7pm. No perfs Dec 24, 25. £3.50. Concs and party rates
David Wood's show for children and families.

SOUTHEND: Cliffs Pavilion (0702 351135). Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. Dec 17-Jan 12. Mon-Sat at 7.15pm (not Dec 31); matinées Dec 18-22, 26-29, 31, Jan 1-5, 7, 9, 10, 12 at 2.15 pm. No perfs Dec 24, 25. £4-£4.50. Concs and party rates
Ken Goodwin, Donna Freeman, and the sets and costumes from last year's West End production.

SOUTHPORT: Theatre (0704 40404). Aladdin and his Lamp. Dec 21-Jan 26. Mon-Sat at 7.15pm; matinées Mon-Sat at 2.30pm Dec 22-Jan 9, then Wed and Sat at 2.30pm. £2.35-£3. Concs and party rates
Tommy Trafford, Johnny More, Linda Lee Lewis, Keith Hopkins, Ronnie Parnell, in a traditional show

STOKE-ON-TRENT: Victoria (0782 615962). Rumpelstiltskin. Dec 27-Jan 5, Jan 22-Feb 1. Dec 27, 28, Jan 3-5, Jan 26, Feb 1 at 7pm; matinées Dec 27-29, Jan 2, 3, 23, 24, 31, Feb 1, 2 at 2.30pm; also on Jan 22, 23, 25, 29, 30 at 10.30am. £3.25-£3.75. Concs and party rates
New Christmas play by Peter Terson, suitable for children over five and families.

SUNDERLAND: Empire (0783 42517). Mother Goose. Dec 17-Feb 2. Mon-Sat at 7pm; matinées daily during school holidays at 2.30pm, otherwise Wed, Thurs and Sat at 2.30pm. £2-£4. Concs and party rates
Stanley Baxter heads the cast of a traditional show.

SWINDON: Wyvern (0793 24481). Cinderella. Dec 20-Jan 19. Mon-Sat at 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Dec 24 at 2.30pm only, no perf Dec 25, Jan 7 and Jan 14 at 7pm. £2.50-£4. Concs and party rates
Don Crann, Roger Dean, April Walker, Francesca Hall, in a traditional show.

WATFORD: Palace (0923 25671). Aladdin. Dec 17-Jan 19. Mon-Fri at 2pm, Sat at 2.30pm, with variations, and Mon-Sat at 5pm, or 5.30, or 6.30, with 8pm perfs on Dec 26-29, Jan 1, 5, 12, 19. No perfs Dec 24, 25. £1.50-£5.50. Concs and party rates
Peter John stars as the Dame in this traditional pantomime, which he wrote

WELWYN GARDEN CITY: Campus West (96 32880). Aladdin. Dec 17-Jan 5. Mon-Sat at 2.30 and 6.30pm, with exceptions. No perf Dec 25. £4. Concs and party rates
Traditional family pantomime

WESTCLIFF: Palace (0702 342564). Sugar Bear and the Magic Snowman. Until Jan 5. Perfs at 11am, 1.30, 2.30 or 6pm. Mon-Sat. No perfs Dec 20 22. £.25-£2.75.
Children's show by Jeanette Ranger and Christopher Lillicrap.
Godspell. Dec 21-Jan 19. Mon-Thurs and Sat at 8pm; Fri at 8.15pm; matinees Jan 9, 16 at 2.30pm. £2.50-£6.
John Michael Tebalak and Stephen Schwartz's musical approach to the gospel is a perennial favourite.

WINDSOR: Theatre Royal, (075 35 53888). Cinderella. Until Jan 26. Mon-Sat at 2.30 and 7.30pm. No perf Dec 25, no matinées Jan 14, 18, 21, 25. £2.50-£9. Concs and party rates
Joe Brown, Jess Conrad, Bryan Burdon, John Gower, Melanie Parr and Sheila Mathews.

WORCESTER: Swan (0905 27322). Annie. Until Jan 12. Mon-Sat at 2.30 and 7.30pm. No perf Dec 25. £4. Concs and party rates
Thomas Meehan, Charles Strouse and Martin Charnin's "Little Orphan Annie".

WORTHING: Connaught (0903 35333). Annie. Dec 24-Jan 19. Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matinée Mon-Sat at 2.30pm until Jan 12, then Jan 16 and 19 at 2.30pm. £2.95-£4.95. Concs and part rates
Richard Coleman and Susan Jane Tanner feature in this production by Thomas Meehan, Charles Strouse and Martin Charnin.

WYTHENSHAWE: Forum (061 437 0663). Puss in Boots & The Incredible Ogre. Until Jan 26. Fri and Sat at 2.30 and 7.30pm; also Dec 17, 18 at 7.30pm; Dec 26, 27 at 7pm. £2.80-£3.40. Concs and party rates
Written by Chris Emmett and Graham Ripley (of television shows *Spitting Image* and *3-2-1*) in a not-strictly traditional story, traditionally told.

YORK: Theatre Royal (0904 23568). Sinbad the Sailor. Dec 21-Jan 19. Perfs at 2, 2.30, 5, 7.30 and 8pm according to the day: one, two or three shows a day, Mon-Sat. No perfs Dec 25, Jan 7. £2.25-£4.75. Concs and party rates
Berwick Kaler (Dame here for the past seven years) in a traditional show written by Kaler and Andrew McKinnon.

It is time to get ready to hiss the villain again, to try and overcome inhibitions and join in the song spelled out on the vast sheet hanging from the flies. The pantomime season is with us again, and more than 100 commercial productions around Britain testify to its continuing appeal.

For the second year running, *Aladdin* – sometimes with His Wonderful Lamp – is in the lead. Next comes *Dick Whittington*, and *Cinderella*, the most popular for a generation, is in third place. But the one which excites Gyles Brandreth, founder and director of the British Pantomime Association, the most is *Jack and the Beanstalk*.

Now in fourth place, *Jack and the Beanstalk* has been chosen as the Royal panto this Christmas, to be attended at Richmond by Princess Alexandra. "I am hoping to see Jack move up the top ten list and it could be in the top two next year. *Jack and the Beanstalk* and *Dick Whittington* are the only two home grown British pantos. The rest are foreign stories – even *Cinderella* is French", Brandreth says with some distaste.

Brandreth, espouser of unusual causes ranging from Scrabble to exotic knitwear, notes with pleasure a *Humpty Dumpty* and records the return of *Sinbad*.

Brandreth's spies report a strong return to the traditional values. "Last Christmas we had no reports of blue jokes, and pantos are back to telling the traditional fairy story", he says.

Christopher Warman



Panto partners: Anthony Best (left) and Mark Eldridge star in the Watermill Theatre's production of Pinocchio at Newbury

THE WEEK

Sport

CLIMAX AT CARDIFF: The Australian Rugby Union team play the traditional end-of-tour fixture against the Barbarians, drawn from the leading players of Britain and France, at Cardiff Arms Park this afternoon. The result will matter less than the quality of the play, with everyone hoping for a fast and flowing game.
The whole match is live on *Grandstand*, BBC1, from 2.10pm, with highlights on *Rugby Special*, BBC2, 7.25–8.15pm.

DAVIS CUP FINAL: Defeated last year by Australia, Sweden's young tennis team will be out to do better this time as they take on the United States at the Scandinavum Arena in Gothenberg. Leading the Swedish challenge are Mats Wilander, Henrik Sundstrom and Anders Jarryd, with John McEnroe, Jimmy Connors and Peter Fleming countering for America.
Channel 4 is providing three days of coverage, starting tomorrow with the opening singles, noon-2.25pm.

PRIDE OF IRELAND: Barry McGuigan, Britain's boxer of the year, defends his British and European featherweight titles against Clyde Ruan of Slough over 12 rounds in the Ulster Hall, Belfast, on Wed. Having stopped his last 17 opponents inside the distance, McGuigan starts overwhelming favourite but Ruan is confident of being able to stage an upset.
The fight is live on BBC1, from 9.25pm.

LIVE FOOTBALL: Queens Park Rangers versus Liverpool should be a tasty television football dish on Fri, with QPR fresh from their brief flirtation with Don Revie and Liverpool starting to look like championship contenders again after a wretched start to the season.
BBC1, from 7.05pm.

Radio

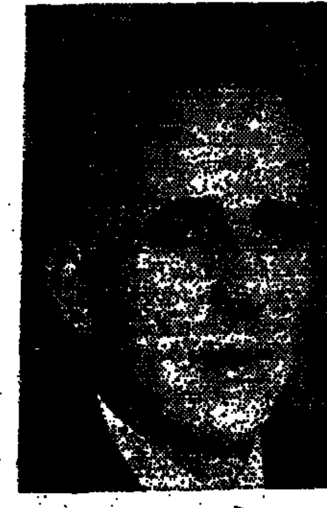
BRAIN OF SPORT: This year's competition reaches its climax tomorrow when the finalists are Michael Bentley, from Cheshire; Ray Welford, from Staffordshire; and John Wilson, from Liverpool. The questionmaster is Peter Jones.
Radio 2, 6.30-7pm.

THE SNOW–BABY: Alison Uttley, creator of Little Grey Rabbit and author of a classic book about childhood, *The Country Child*, was born during a snowstorm 100 years ago. In this centenary protrait, Denis Judd, her official biographer, explores her strange life and personality with extracts from her books and previously unpublished diaries. Alison Uttley is played by Elizabeth Proud.
Radio 4, tomorrow, 10.15-11pm.

GORMENGHAST: Mervyn Peake's macabre fantasy, sequel to *Titus Groan* (broadcast last week) with rock star Sting again playing the ruthless Steerpike and a fine supporting cast of Freddie Jones, Bernard Hepton, Judy Parfitt and Eleanor Bron.
Radio 4, tomorrow, Mon, 8.15-9.45pm.

JUST RESTING: The new *Book at Bedtime* is an eight-part adaptation of Leo McKern's autobiography, read by the author. Among the reminiscences of the Australian-born actor whose most famous part is the barrister Rumpole are reactions to losing an eye, working with Sir Ralph Richardson and making a film with the Beatles.
Radio 4, Mon-Fri, 10.15-10.30pm.

GBS REMEMBERED: Dame Wendy Hiller has played several of George Bernard Shaw's heroines, including Saint Joan, Eliza Doolittle in *Pygmalion* and Major Barbara in the 1940 film. She talks to Martin Jenkins about her relationship, professional as well as personal, with Shaw, whom she first met at the Malvern Theatre Festival in 1936 when he was celebrating his eightieth birthday.
Radio 4, Tues, 4.02-4.40pm.



Master of macabre fantasy: Mervyn Peake (see Radio)

Auctions

LOWRY'S ROSSETTIS: You wouldn't think that Laurence Stephen Lowry, the masterly painter of industrial townscapes who died in 1976, had anything in common with Dante Gabriel Rossetti, but Lowry must have loved Rossetti's work. Christie's have no less than 11 Rossetti's drawings from Lowry's collection for sale on Tues together with other good English drawings.
Christie's, 8 King Street, London SW1 (839-9060). Viewing Mon 9am to 4pm. Sale Tues 11am.

NEEDLES: Like biscuit tins, needle tins with decorative advertisments on the lid have become collector's items. There is a section devoted to them in the mechanical music sale on Thurs. There are also old records, radio equipment and musical boxes.
Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7, (581-7611). Viewing Mon 5pm-7pm, Tues and Wed 9am-4.30pm, Thurs 9am-noon. Sale Thurs 2pm.

Other events

BUILD A CHRISTMAS CAKE: There is still time to enter the annual Christmas cake competition at the Royal Institute of British Architects. The challenge is to decorate a cake in the form of a building, or part of a building: entries in past years have included an exploding tower block, a domed glasshouse and an Odeon cinema. The cakes must be edible and there is a special category for under-12s. Judging is on Thurs.
Royal Institute of British Architects, 66 Portland Place, London W1 (580 5533).

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS: A family entertainment featuring the London Festival Ballet, Regency Brass Quintet, ballads, carols, music hall, pantomime and Father Christmas.
Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 (589 6371). Tomorrow, 3 pm. Admission free but early arrival is recommended.

TINKLING KEYS: Supper-room cabaret at the piano from Peter Greenwell. After quarter of a century as a pianist and composer, including a spell accompanying Noel Coward, he has emerged as a polished and stylish solo entertainer; Coward's songs are high on his repertoire.
Pizza on the Park, 11 Knightsbridge, London W1 (235 5550). From Mon. Mon-Sat, 10 and 11.30 pm.

FILMS

The animal magic of Christmas

What's your fancy in celluloid animals? This Christmas they come in all shapes, sizes, styles and temperaments. Throughout the country's cinemas you will find dogs, elephants, snakes and tigers animated with old-fashioned Disney finesse. You will find small costumed actors waddling about as the cute, valiant Ewoks – the woodland creatures from *Return of the Jedi*, now awarded their own starring feature, *Caravan of Courage*.

If you're 15 or over, you can see Gizmo the mogwai – a lovable bundle of eyes, ears and fur – and his less lovable colleagues in *Gremlins*. And last, but far from least, if you live within reach of London's ICA, you can have Bugs Bunny, chomping through carrots and crazy dialogue.

Among this menagerie, the creatures in *Gremlins* (15) are easily the most startling. "Dad, it's really neat!" the young hero cries when given his strange cuddly pet; things are not so neat once the creature spawns spiteful dragon-like louts, who take delight in hiding in Christmas trees, running riot, and generally ruining the festive glow of a small American town on December 24. For those with a jaundiced view of the Christmas season, therefore, *Gremlins* can be confidently recommended.

Elsewhere, gentler entertainment prevails. The bumptious hero of *Caravan of Courage* (U) might call the Ewoks "walking hair-brushes", but he soon discovers their sterling qualities on a rescue mission to find his parents in the Forbidden Land of the Giant Gorax. The film, co-produced by George Lucas's company, was made for American television, and offers little of the visual panache one generally expects from a Lucas production. Fans of the Ewoks, however, should be well pleased: they totter through the film proudly showing off their shoulder bags, leather headgear and special language, which they seem able to speak without moving their mouths.

Apart from *Caravan of Courage*, the main holiday release for family audiences is Disney's *One Hundred and One Dalmatians* (U), first seen in 1961; a later Disney, the 1967 *Jungle Book* (U) is in London. *Dalmatians* offers the most fluid and detailed animation, but *Jungle Book* has the best characters, the bounciest songs and the wittiest dialogue.

For those with rowdier tastes, the ICA in London offers a feast of Hollywood's most raucous and anarchic cartoons. Three daily programmes present the antics of Bugs Bunny, Tweety and Sylvester, the Road Runner, and the wild imaginings of director Tex Avery; on weekends at 3pm, the ICA Children's Cinema Club is also presenting the 1979 spectacular *The Great Bugs Bunny Roadrunner Chase*.

But where, you might be asking, is *homo sapiens*? Well, the spoof supernatural thriller *Ghostbusters* (PG) features the likes of Bill Murray and Dan Aykroyd, though they tend to get swamped by special effects; and the sturdy new version of *A Christmas Carol* (U) offers George C. Scott on the rampage as the consummate miser, Scrooge. But this is the season for animals. Take your pick.

Geoff Brown

Ghostbusters is at the Odeon Leicester Square (930 6111) and on general release; *Gremlins* is at the Warner West End (439 0791) and on general release; *One Hundred and One Dalmatians* is showing in selected areas, coming to London and the south-east from December 27; *Jungle Book* is at the Plaza (437 1234); *Caravan of Courage*, at present in London, goes on general release from Friday while *A Christmas Carol* is at the Classic Haymarket (839 1527) and Classic Oxford Street (636 0310) and in the Cambridge area from Monday. For the ICA Cinema ring 930 3647 or 930 6393.



Cute woodland creatures: The valiant Ewoks ride out on a rescue mission in Caravan of Courage

Selected

DUNE (PG)
Empire, Leicester Square (437 1234)
David Lynch's expensive, impersonal version of Frank Herbert's science fiction classic about war and intrigue on a desert planet; top-heavy with plots, but visually immaculate. With Kyle MacLachlan, Francesca Annis, Sting.

THE KILLING FIELDS (15)
Warner West End (439 0791)
Britain's lavish entry into the blockbuster war-movie arena, produced by David Puttnam, directed by television veteran Roland Joffé. Sam Waterston stars as the American journalist covering the Cambodian war; fairly impressive in spurts.

A PRIVATE FUNCTION (15)
Odeon Haymarket (930 2738)
Alan Bennett's first cinema script offers the riotous, rude post-war tale of a Yorkshire chiropodist, a wife with social pretentions, and a pig with no social sense at all. Directed by Malcolm Mowbray, with a glorious cast: Michael Palin, Maggie Smith and Denholm Elliott.

THEATRE

In Preview

THE NATIVITY: One of three adaptations from Medieval Mystery Plays presented this season by the National Theatre. This one and *The Passion* have been seen before (1980), and they are joined by *Doomsday* in January. Bill Bryden directs promenade productions credited to the company and writer Tony Harrison. The cast includes J. G. Devlin, Edna Dore, Brian Glover, Howard Goorney, James Grant, Dave Hill, Olu Jacobs, Karl Johnson, Derek Newark, Robert Oates, Stephen Petcher, Trevor Ray, Jack Shepherd, Robert Stephens, John Tams, Don Warrington.
Cottesloe (928 2252). Previews Fri, Dec 22, 26, Jan 17, 18 at 7.30pm; press viewing Jan 19 at 11am. In repertory.

Openings

CIDER WITH ROSIE: James Roose-Evans directs his own adaptation of Laurie Lee's autobiographical study of Cotswold life. Simon Butteriss, Sarah Crowden, Barbara Ewing, Douglas Milvain, Diane Paris, Richard Pearce, Jeremy Swift, Christopher Timothy and Claire Williamson.
Greenwich Theatre, Crooms Hill, London SE10 (858 7755). Preview on Wed at 7.45pm, opens Thurs at 7pm. Until Feb 9, Mon-Sat at 7.45pm; matinées Sat at 2.30pm, Dec 26 at 4pm. No perfs Dec 24, 25, Jan 1.

CORIOLANUS: Director Sir Peter Hall's illness has delayed the press night of this new production, with Ian McKellen in the title role, and Irene Worth as Volumnia.
Olivier (928 2252). Opens today at 7.15pm; Mon and Tues at 7.15pm. In repertory (returns Jan 7).

KISSING GOD: Phil Young (responsible for the award-winning *Crystal Clear*), has devised a new play about four young Londoners. He directs a cast including David Bamber, Anton Lesser, Kate Locke and Feroza Syall. This is a coproduction with BBC TV.
Hampstead Theatre, Swiss Cottage Centre, London NW3 (722 9301). Previews today and Mon at 8pm, opens Tues at 7pm. Then Mon-Sat at 8pm; matinées Sat at 4.30pm.

Christmas shows compiled by Tony Patrick; The Week: Peter Waymark; Theatre: Anthony Masters

THE ARTS

A Passage to India, Sir David Lean's first film for more than 10 years, opened yesterday in New York to great acclaim with special praise for Victor Banerjee as Aziz and Lean himself

A journey to the centre of the caves


The approach to the Marabar Caves: Aziz (Victor Banerjee) offers a hand to Miss Quested (Judy Davis)

After watching the first public performance of Santha Rama Rau's dramatization of his *A Passage to India* at Oxford in 1960, E. M. Forster, then 81 years old, walked on to the stage to express his pleasure with the performance.

"How good the actors were", said Forster, "and how pleased I am that there were so many of them. I am so used to seeing the sort of play which deals with one man and two women. They do not leave me with the feeling I have made a full theatrical meal. . . . They do not give me the experience of the multiplicity of life."

Forster, who died in 1970, might be equally pleased by most of Sir David Lean's respectful, handsome new screen version, which cites as its sources the play as well as the novel. The film is very much a "full theatrical meal", and it conveys a lot of "the multiplicity of life", one seldom sees on the screen these days.

Lean's **Passage to India**, which he wrote and directed, is by far his best work since *The Bridge on the River Kwai* and *Lawrence of Arabia* and perhaps his most humane and moving film since *Brief Encounter*.

Though vast in physical scale and set against a tumultuous Indian background, it is also intimate, funny and moving in the manner of a film-maker completely in control of his material. Lean shares with Forster an appeciation for the difficulties involved in coping with the universe.

Because of the reputation the novel has acquired as a classic since its publication in 1924, one tends to forget what a smashingly good story it is – a grandly sorrowful muddle that becomes a mystery for the saddest, nastiest of reasons.

Set in the fictitious provincial city of Chandrapore in the 1920s, when the British Raj was being threatened by the King-Emperor's increasingly impatient Indian subjects, *A Passage to India* is essentially a story of what can happen as a result of a succession of wrong-headed decisions and dreadful misunderstandings, of trust either given too easily or withheld far too long.

Though the initial scenes are set in London, the film really begins with the arrival in Chandrapore of the uncommonly wise, kind and sensitive Mrs Moore (Peggy Ashcroft), who has come out from England to visit her son Ronny Heaslop (Nigel Havers), the British magistrate, and to chaperon Adela Quested (Judy Davis), the proper young Englishwoman to whom Ronny is unofficially engaged.

Almost immediately the liberal-minded Mrs Moore and Adela are upset by the cloistered life of the small, hopelessly genteel British colony at Chandrapore. They are appalled by the attitudes of their compatriots toward the Indians and by the total lack of interest in what Mrs Moore and Adela keep referring to as "the real India".

They have scarcely settled in at Chandrapore before Adela is speaking about the possibility of "adventures", to which Mrs Moore, similarly excited, adds that "adventures do occur, but not punctually".

They refuse to fall into the routine of cricket, polo and afternoons at the club folowed by other members of this British station, with the help of the local school superintendent, Richard Fielding (James Fox), Mrs Moore and Adela attempt to break the invisible raj barrier.

Through Fielding, they meet an eccentric old brahmin scholar, Professor Godbole (Alec Guinness), whose words of wisdom, being inscrutable, they hang on to with delight, and an earnest, eager-to-please young Muslim medical doctor named Aziz (Victor Banerjee), a hard-working, financially impoverished widower who both admires and loathes the British in Chandrapore.

Aziz, who must be one of fiction's most appealing and brave comic heroes, get carried away by the unexpected friendliness of Mrs Moore and Adela at a small tea party. He invites them, along with Fielding and Professor Godbole, to go on an elaborate outing he cannot afford, a day-long picnic to the Marabar Caves, always called "extraordinary", though for reasons that no one can satisfactorily explain.

The caves are not beautiful, they contain no sculpture or wall carvings and have absolutely no religious significance. Their importance seems to predate time.

The disastrous consequences of this outing, which occurs early in the film, set up everything that comes after, including an uproarious, agonizing courtroom melodrama during which Aziz is accused of the rape of the once dazzled, now nearly catatonic, Adela.

What happened in the Marabar Caves? That question pursued Forster throughout his life, and he always avoided answering.

In Lean's screenplay, which in most ways is remarkably faithful to the novel – it includes large swatches of very funny Forster dialogue – there is no longer much of a mystery. The audience knows, or at least thinks it knows, exactly what happened in the caves, which makes poor Aziz's trial even more outrageous than it is in the novel.

This conscious decision on Lean's part subtly distorts the original, but it also emphasizes some surprising revelations about Adela. Even more peculiar is Lean's decision to withhold from the audience a scene in the novel that explains Mrs Moore's seemingly uncharacteristic actions preceding Aziz's trial. Though he has made *A Passage to India* both less mysterious and more cryptic than the book, the film remains a wonderfully provocative tale, full of vivid characters, all played to near perfection.

At the film's centre is Banerjee's superb performance as Aziz, a mad mixture of foolishness, bravery, honour and anger. Judy Davis, the young Australian actress who first caught attention in *My Brilliant Career*, is far prettier than Forster's Adela, but she has a particular presence – like that of a younger, less abrasive Glenda Jackson – that helps make the film work.

The film's tone is set by the splendid Miss Ashcroft's Mrs Moore, whose self-assurance slowly ebbs as events and life overwhelm her.

Guinness does not exactly underact. There are times when his performance comes perilously close to a Peter Sellers impersonation, but still he is invigorating company. Equally good in less flamboyant roles are Fox and Havers, and the members of the huge supporting cast.

The film contains a rather major flaw, one that keeps a very good film from being great. Though *A Passage to India* is essentially a dark comedy of manners, Lean sometimes appears to think of it as a romance. In this he is being as wrong-headed as the unfortunate Adela. This is the only explanation for the terrible Maurice Jarre score, which contradicts the images and sounds like a reworking of the music he wrote for Lean's unsuccessful *Ryan's Daughter*.

This score has nothing to do with Forster, India, the time or the story, but it has everything to do with movie-making in the 1960s, when soundtrack music first became a major element in the merchandizing of movies, including Lean's *Dr Zhivago*.

Vincent Canby

Television

Nun in wonderland

When Genoveffa Cali was a girl, all she wanted to be was a nun. Her family – her father especially – did not approve, but she left Sicily for the convent: "It was like boarding a train that would take me to wonderland." She has been in wonderland for 35 years and still finds it an adventure, she said in BBC 2's Italians, produced by Anne Webber, last night.

There are 150,000 nuns in Italy, so it seemed reasonable to focus on one of them. Appropriately, The Sister of Spoleto was a comparatively subdued programme for this excellent, volatile series, though the phrase "quiet as a nun" would not be entriely apposite for the good sister.

She confessed as much: "When I was a novice, I was a disaster. I was always the one to break the rules, especially the rule of silence. I could never keep quiet. I couldn't even understand why I had to."

Her superiors obviously considered that, just as poachers are said to make good gamekeepers, talkative nuns are the ones to impress the virtues of silence on others. So Sister Genoveffa is now a novice mistress.

Her six charges seemed to bear the disciplines lightly and there was much laughing and joking in addition to be expressed simply and without embarrassment. Confronted with it, I thought the teenagers brought in from Spoleto to find out how the nuns live looked rather nonplussed.

Sister Genoveffa is not herself isolated from the world. She is a social worker and psychotherapist as well as a novice mistress and, we saw her counselling a married women and a young couple and visiting a mental hospital for women where she used to work.

She seemed an extremely happy woman. "A true vocation is like a dress that fits you well, you feel wonderful in it", she had explained when talking about her charges. It applied to her absolutely.

Dennis Hackett

Radio

Dr Johnson's two faces

One event has left its mark on two networks this week: the bicentenary of the death of Dr Samuel Johnson, and two things puzzle me in this matter. First the nit-picking, pedantic, fussy little question of why neither of them managed to transmit their celebratory programmes on the day itself, namely December 13. Radio 3 chose the 11th, Radio 4 the 12th although at two hours the latter's offering was so very, very long that it missed running over into the proper day by a mere 105 minutes. Ah well, radio has always been slightly latitudinous in the next matter of anniversaries and I am resigned to the discovery on opening the next edition of *Radio Times* that they have decided to commemorate the birth of Christ on December 23. It is after all an approximation anyway.

The other question, adumbrated in my remark about its inordinate length, is why Radio 4's **A Life of Johnson** (a *Kaleidoscope* special compiled by John Wilders and produced by John Powell) conveyed a hazier and less remarkable portrait of the great man than Radio 3's **Samuel Johnson 1709-1784** (producer Philip French). The first of these surely had all the ingredients of memorable success – the full radio-dramatic armoury, a mosaic of scenes from the life, a rich weave of sound effects carefully chosen to suggest 18th-century London, a parade of Johnson's contemporaries. It all sounded very lively and authentic: indeed if Johnson retained his Staffordshire accent, then David Buck who played him, made it authentic in that respect as well.

By contrast, Radio 3 gave us a perfectly straightforward assembly of utterances by scholars and others, rather flatly presented by Professor Christopher Ricks. They told us about the shortcomings of Boswell's well-known portrait – what facets of its subject it had underplayed or omitted altogether. We learned of his strong but undemonstrative religious feeling, his lifelong martyrdom to melancholy, his standing in his own times and today. Strikingly, these men and women spoke of him more than anything as if he were a man they had known personally and who had died only yesterday – to the extent that Hamilton's famous epitaph – "On his death he made a chasm, which not only nothing could fill up, but which nothing has a tendency to fill up" – seemed to epitomize their own feelings too.

The same epitaph turned up on Radio 4, but there it sounded empty. Indeed, at no time did *A Life of Johnson* capture and transmit this sense of the living man and I am really hard put to it to say why not. Could it have been quite simply that Mr Buck's accent was too unfamiliar, outside the convention? Or that his expansive rendering of the part repeatedly conjured up not Johnson but Falstaff, whom he has also played on radio? Are huge dramatic compilations not very good at living portraits unless the compiler is also a dramatist of considerable ability? Was there too much in text and production of the times and not enough of the life . . . ?

Whatever the explanation, Johnson's anniversary has come and gone. Meanwhile, the miners' strike continues, may even reach an anniversary of its own, and radio might be forgiven on this occasion if, without awaiting the day itself, it had already set up as all-embracing an examination of that conflict and its background as it has just given to the life of the great and long-dead lexicographer. While we wait for that, it has fallen to Ray Gosling on Radio 4 and a Mrs Janet Arnold on BBC Radio Solent partially to repair the omission.

Mr Gosling in **Behind the Brazier** (December 9; producer, Liz Carney) spent time at Cortonwood where the trouble all began, while in **A Lady in the Valleys** (December 5 and 9) Mrs Arnold, a Winchester housewife, went with Peter White (whom Radio 4 listeners will know as the sharp and courteous blind presenter of the programme for the visually handicapped, *In Touch*) to the small Welsh mining town of Hirwaun. It was a thoroughly original and useful idea on the part of Solent to send a perfectly ordinary, middle-class, South of England lady and a very adept professional broadcaster to see a part of the battlefield for themselves and after four or five days I've no doubt that Mrs Arnold spoke the truth when she said that she went home with a few of her ideas rearraged.

David Wade

Theatre

Lovable Rousseau on an island of irony

Melancholy Jacques
Bush

The Jacques of the title is Rousseau, pictured in solitary retreat in an island (composed of his favourite books), and absorbed in private reflections on the iniquities of the theatre for the benefit of his surrounding audience.

First seen at Edinburgh in August, this cunning adaptation of two Rousseau texts offers the rare partnership between a French director (Jean Jourdheuil) and a British actor (Simon Callow) in a masterly extension of Rousseauesque self-portraiture. It is a deeply affectionate picture, but its theatrical vitality derives from a persistently ironic treatment of the subject. No such show could have been assembled around a totally rustic recluse like Thoreau. Comedy accrues to Jean-Jacques because, in retiring to the island of St Peter, he takes the civilized world along with him. Hence the books. Hence the inspired touch of equipping him with a zip-up tent, a scene-break with quotations from Rousseau's own music, reminding him of the art he abandoned in pursuit of philosophy.

When it comes to philosophy, you find him launching into free-associative reverie on the harmful effects of theatrical performance while in the act of watering his plants, reaching the conclusion that theatre should be banned as he is left standing in a large puddle.

That example is too crude to represent the prevailing style of the performance, which takes its character from Rousseau's own confessional manner – sounding off against public abuses with full philosophic authority, while frankly exposing his own petty appetites, gloating over the number of cherries he has promised himself, or emerging from the memory of a lost love to pen a high-toned letter to Frederick the Great.

Mr Callow projects that letter with all the comic resources of Victor Borge's articulated punctuation. At other times, testing out and repeating succulent paradoxes in bated breath, he seems more thoroughly blanketed in solitude than by his huge goatskin cloak.

I have never seen a more impressive demonstration of Stanislavsky's "circle of public solitude". Nor shall forget his closing lines: "I had a glimmer of talent. It came late. It died early. I am ashamed to survive it."

Irving Wardle

Concerts

Philharmonia/Joo
Barbican

It was a clear crescendo mark of an evening. The audience was small and disgruntled; the programmes failed to arrive, having been sent to the Festival Hall in error; and, in their *Magic Flute* Overture, it sounded very much as if the Philharmonia had gone there too. But by the end, we had heard an exciting, if flawed, Rachmaninov Third Piano Concerto, and a perfomance of Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony which will remain in the memory long after the rest has faded.

The real sensation should doubtless have been the London concerto debut of the 24-year-old pianist, Hai-Kyung Suh. Born in Korea and trained in the United States, she has been carrying the Rachmaninov about in her suitcase ever since her second prize at the Munich Competition last year popped her on to the world map. Her obvious deep involvement in the work infuses it with a freshness and electric energy which has earned her high praise. But I wonder if it really does suit her so well?

The most distinctive, and beautiful, aspect of her performance was its slinky, sinuous cantabile, its deliquescent phrase shaping, its glistening prestissimo figuration. These qualities charged her rubato with instinctive musicality; but too often there was simply not the resonance, the breadth of either volume or interpretative vision fully to support and sustain it. Too much, and too much that was excellent, faded into middle distance. It is all a question of scale: at the moment the virtuosity of the performer – because it is stretched to the very limit – dominated the virtuosity of the music.

Arpad Joo, who conducted, is barely more familiar to London audiences. If his account of the Tchaikovsky is anything to go by, then the Budapest Symphony Orchestra, to whom he has just been appointed principal guest conductor, have struck very lucky.

Hilary Finch

YCAT
Purcell Room

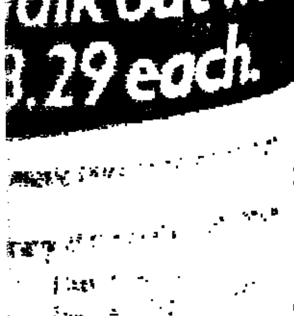
Three of the first six beneficiaries of Young Concert Artists Trust, modelled on an American scheme which has flourished for the past 20 years, reflected some of the amazing talent among young British musicians at their "presentation concert" on Wednesday. The trust, with Sir Kenneth Robinson as chairman of a musically distinguished board of directors, and with charitable and business support will choose artists of international calibre at annual auditions to manage and guide "until ready to be taken up by commercial management".

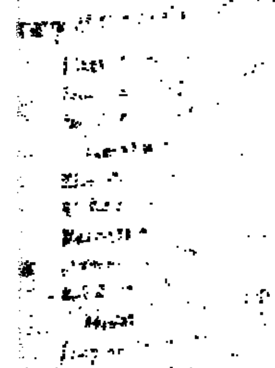
In a shared programme of about 30 minutes for each performer, Caroline Dale's cello playing at 19 was of a character reminiscent of Jacqueline Du Prés at that age. Her main work with Walter Delahunt as pianist was the Shostakovich D minor Sonata, in a thoughtful and perceptive performance highlighted by resourceful technique in wildly dancing second movement, and a quiet eloquence of feeling in the Largo, further brilliance being saved for Popper's *Tarantella*.

Timothy Wilson, once a Winchester Cathedral chorister of gramophone as well as liturgical distinction, and now a counter-tenor of true tonal beauty, included among his items the first performance of *Cantiones Iudithae*. This is a short, musically-enigmatic setting by Michael Howard of lines from the "Song of Solomon" in Latin, the vocal line giving a strangely irridescent glow to the words. With Steven Naylor a responsive pianist, Mr Wilson brought sensitive style and appealing expression to Schubert's "Litanei" and Wolf's "Nun wandre Maria", and endowed Britten's arrangement of three folk songs with vocal and verbal charm.

A solo piano assortment played by William Stephenson began with a pair of Scarlatti sonatas and ended with two Scriabin studies each invested with an abundance of expressive character.

Noël Goodwin





THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

A rare atmosphere at the equity peaks

The soaring rise in share prices yesterday took the indices to new closing peaks: the FT 30-share index was 7.8 higher at 935.4 and the FT-SE 100, in which British Telecom weighs an influential 5.5 per cent, closed 8.1 up at 1204.8.

The recent performance has confounded almost all professional forecasters who had expected the bull market to end in tears months ago. They are still not entirely happy, though their misgivings, for the time being are reflected in the relative performance of gilt-edged securities, not in a firm disposition to sell ordinary shares.

The causes of unease cannot be shrugged off lightly. The pound is in poor shape – never a healthy sign. Oil prices are weak and threatening the free fall which Sir Peter Baxendell, of Shell, spoke of at the end of last week. Wall Street is wobbly. The latest money supply figures (sterling M3 rising by 2.75 per cent and well outside the target range) have cast a shadow. The only gilt-edged stocks to find favour are index-linked. In other words, not withstanding yesterday's 4.9 per cent rise in the RPI and a lower figure in prospect for December, the professionals smell higher inflation next year.

This fear may be a factor in the strong performance of ordinary shares. Yesterday Imperial Chemical Industries bounced 24p higher to close at a new high of 712p on the news of its $750 million (£630 million) acquisition of Beatrice Companies' chemicals division. This is ICI's biggest acquisition for more than a decade.

Sentiment is clearly strongly bullish. The easing of interest rates has helped. The weakness of sterling against the dollar continues to provide many companies with strong overseas earnings. There is also a lot of bid activity keeping share prices on the boil.

The really intriguing question is whether there are now forces at work in the market and if so, are they likely to remain. The response to the British Telecom offer far exceeded the most sanguine of expert forecasts. In the short run, money that was not taken up because of the rationing of BT allocations, is looking for, and finding, other homes.

The second phenomenon is serious American interest in British equities. Of course the strength of the dollar has enabled Americans to play the currency option for all their worth. But beyond that, there may just be a more permanent conversion to investing here in those companies which have purged themselves of past guilt under Mrs Thatcher's recessionary lash.

For what it is worth, in real terms the FT-Actuaries All-Share index was at 100 in 1968; it peaked at 120 in the early 1970s; and is now just over 80. The real return on assets also tells a similar tale, with the peak returns in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Conceptually, the market is undervalued.

Distress sale at Charter

Charter Consolidated's sale of another tranche of its Minorco holding demonstrates how close is the ill-fated company to disposing of the family jewels to pay the rent. The question now is whether this divestment will be enough, or should we expect a continued erosion of Charter's net worth?

To be fair, and not to indulge merely in kicking a man when he is down, it must be said that Charter indicated three years ago its dissatisfaction with the Minorco holding. While forming a significant part of the company's assets the 9.7 per cent of Minorco actually generated then a negative yield. A 1.8 per cent stake was sold last year. The seven million shares, about 4.2 per cent of Minorco, sold on Thursday, were yielding barely 2 per cent.

Charter also said this week when announcing its results in the wake of the Johnson Matthey and Cape Industries disasters that asset disposals were under consideration. But the only item mentioned was the property at Ashford, Kent, which is in the books at £6 million.

The caveats duly entered the recent Minorco disposal smacks of a distress sale. The £38 million gross raised indicates an average price of 543p, well below the 605p at which the stock closed on Wednesday. Charter must be greateful that the market is generally so strong, but its brokers could not have unloaded more shares without widening the discount. Anglo American might not have been delirious about breaking ne of the cross-holdings which bind it together.

Who will succeed if McMahon goes?

Speculation about the succession to Mr Christopher "Kit" McMahon as Deputy Governor of the Bank of England is concentrated on two internal candidates, Mr Eddie George and Mr David Walker. Mr McMahon, whose five-year term ends early in the New Year, is only 57, and possesses an international reputation for an intellectual understanding of central banking which is an asset to the Bank.

But since he was passed over for the governorship by Mrs Thatcher, there have been rumours that he would choose to leave for either academic or private financial pastures and these have been recently reinforced by rumours that he might be made the politicians' scapegoat for what they see as the Bank's mishandling of the Johnson Matthey affair.

The likeliest outcome is that if Mr McMahon wants to stay, he will survive. meanwhile, there is speculation about another outside appointment to the Bank. But the liveliest debate concerns the relative merits of Mr George and Mr Walker, both executive directors of the Bank and in their mid-40s.

It had earlier seemed that Mr George was easily the front-runner. At the time of the Thatcher Government's worst rows with the Bank, during the darkest failure of monetary control in 1980, Mr George was the acceptable face of Threadneedle Street, liked by the Prime Minister and admired in the Treasury. But Walker has, it seems, been making strides in the succession stakes.

Mr Walker is not man and boy a Bank man; he progressed up the Treasury ladder until transferring to the City end of the public sector in 1977.

Now he is the Bank's articulate operator in the game of change being played out in the securities market.

But Mr George is fundamentally the stronger candidate; a man of formidable judgment and experience of the gilts market, which beneath his general responsibilities for monetary policy is a central part of his Bank domain. It is Mr George, beyond anyone else in the Bank, who has seen Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton safely along his learning curve as Governor. It would be an unfair quirk of fate that could see Mr George, who has long been talked of as a future internal candidate for the Governorship, lose out to Mr Walker in the competition for deputy.

Hanson Trust makes £151m bid for Powell Duffryn

By Philip Robinson

Lord Hanson looked set last night to fight his second British takeover battle in a year as his Hanson Trust conglomerate launched a £151 million offer for Powell Duffryn, the fuel distribution group.

The bid was launched as the market opened yesterday morning and within hours a Duffryn spokesmen said: "This is an unsolicited offer. We are consulting our advisers; shareholders are urged to do nothing."

Lord Hanson has asked to see Duffryn's chairman, Lord Sandon, to discuss the offer. No contact had been made before it was launched.

Hanson is offering four of its shares for every three Duffryn shares. At Hanson's price, unchanged at 289p, the Duffryn shares are valued at 385p. The shares were standing 35p above the offer price last night. Hanson says it will make an appropriate offer to preference holders, but has not given a cash alternative.

Duffryn's shares have come up sharply this week. They stared the week ex-dividend at 320p.

Hanson Trust has held Duffryn shares since the summer last year. It has sold some and now owns 3.69 per cent. It had been expected that Hanson would make a move at some stage, but most felt he would wait until after the miner's strike.

Lord Hanson said yesterday: "Our reason for acting swiftly is the recent speculative increase in Duffryn's share price, an increase we feel not substantiated by any relevant progress in the company. He added: "I believe Powell Duffryn's activities will integrate well with those of Hanson Trust."

Mr Martin Taylor, a Hanson director said: "I think we are thinking more of integrating our management style."

A statement Duffryn said: "As the board only received this unwelcome and clearly inadequate bid this morning, it is


Lord Sandon: no contact before Hanson bid.

not yet in a position to make a detailed comment."

Duffryn last month reported pretax profits down from £6.83 million to £6.05 million. The shipping side showed a loss of £2 million. The news disappointed the market, despite the 5p interim dividend being maintained. For the previous year Duffryn's profits were £18.3 million, from which it paid total dividends of 16p.

It reported then that shipping was expected to perform better and engineering continued to improve, but bulk liquid storage was finding hiring of its tankers more difficult.

Hanson's profits for the year the end of December jumped 86 per cent to a record £169 million in its twenty-first year of trading. Lord Hanson said then that the Trust will "start the New Year with more resources than ever."

This time last year, it was entering what eventually became a £247 million contested bid for London Brick. The final price paid by Hansom was 45 per cent higher than its opening bid.

He eventually won the battle in March. The acquisition gave him 40 per cent of the overall market and a monopoly in fletton bricks.

Tempus, page 21

Record day for shares

The pound gained 20 points to $1.1920 against the dollar yesterday, although its general tone was week. At noon, the sterling index dropped to 74.1, close it its record low of 74.0, before recovering to 74.2 by the close, which represented a fall of 0.1 on the day. The pound lost 0.4 pfennigs against the mark, at DM3.6895. The gold price fell $2.75 on the day, to $322.50.

The stock market shrugged off uncertainties about the pound. The FT-SE 100 index closed at a high of 1204.8, up 8.1, after reaching 1207.9 during the day. The FT 30-share index closed at 935.4, up 7.8 and also a record.

Profits dip

Intasun Leisure, the package holiday group, made pretax profits of £16.5 million in the six months to September 30 against £20 million in the previous first half. The interim dividend was raised to 2p net from 1.8p.

Tempus, page 21

Phoenix slips

Phoenix Timber is to pay an unchanged interim dividend of 1.5p for the six months' trading to September 30, after pretax profits slipped from £527,000 to £427,000. Sales totalled £22.8 million, nearly £2 million down on last year's £24.4 million. Phoenix is not making a profits forecast for the full year, but avers that the downward movement in interest rates, if sustained, should boost the construction sector's confidence. The board sees the interim figures as satisfactory.

Tempus, page 21

Johnson vote

Employee shareholders at Johnson Group Cleaners voted overwhelmingly against the proposal to amend the company's articles of association to enable employee shares to be transferred. The defeat of the proposal at yesterday's extraordinary meeting is a blow to Nottingham Manufacturing, the textile company which is bidding £44 million for Johnson.

Oil pricing

The Select Committee on Energy believes that the Government has a policy for North Sea oil prices, contrary to an impression given yesterday. It also said it would be unacceptable for the Government to continue finanial support for the British National Oil Corporation unless it was prepared to use BNOC to support oil prices.

Fall in food prices cuts inflation to 4.9%

By David Smith
Economics Correspondent

The rate of inflation fell to 4.9 per cent last month, from 5 per cent in October. A larger fall is expected fot this months figure, as cheaper mortgages affect the retail prices index.

The retail prices index rose by 0.3 per cent between October and November, taking the index to 358.8 from 357.7. During the previous six months prices had risen by an average of 0.4 per cent a month.

In November, higher telephone charges, the remaining effects of the August rise in mortagage rates, and increased prices for newspapers, cigarettes and imported coal, added to inflation. There was a 1 per cent fall in seasonal food prices, partly offsetting these increases, notably in potatoes and other fresh vegetables, with a 0.6 per cent drop in the average price of alcoholic drinks, as a result of discounting by retailers.

A drop in the inflation rate for December is virtually guaranteed by the 1 per cent average fall in mortgage rates, which will reduce the index by 0.3 per cent.

The Treasury, in its autumn statement, forecast an inflation rate of 4.75 per cent for the fourth quarter of 1984. To achieve this exactly would require a December rate of 4.3 to 4.4 per cent.

Britain's inflation rate of 4.9 per cent in November compared with an EEC average of 5.7 per cent in October. The rate is still significantly above the United States, 3.2 per cent, Germany, 2.1 per cent, and Japan 1.9 per cent.

INFLATION RATES (%)*

Italy	9.4
France	7.0
Belgium	5.3
UK	4.9
USA	3.2
Netherlands	3.1
German	2.1
Japan	1.9
OECD average	5.1
EEC average	5.7

*All October, except United Kingdom. November.
Source: Department of Employment

Defence firms seek more state backing

By John Lawless

The Government is investigating the possibility of setting up an equivalent of the Export Credits Guarantee Department purely for military equipment sales abroad.

Defence companies have been telling the Government for some time that the present British structure for funding and insuring exports is out-of-date, and that multi-million pound deals are being lost to competitors such as the US and France, as a result.

They have called for a similar set-up for finance to that in the United States, where, once a sale has been negotiated, the government buys the equipment direct from manufacturers and sells it on to a foreign government. They have also urged that ministers adopt a far more aggressive stance selling overseas.

"This has been a forte of the French," said a senior aerospace executive yesterday. "A mission of industrialists will often be lead by a minister, who really does go out and sell. That would be unthinkable in this country."

That lesson appears to havwe been rammed home recently. Mr Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State for Defence, made and urgent and unannounced visit to Saudi Arabia on November 17 to try to head off French competition for a £1 billion contract that had been under negotiation by Britain for several months. It is for the sale of 40 Tornado aircraft, Hawk trainers and services.

Figures from Stockholm International Peace Research Institute show the dramatic progress made by the French in the past two decades, followed closely by the West Germans and Italians. Its figures show that (in 1975 constant US dollars) British sales of all main weapon systems to the Third World went from $179m in 1964 to $366m in 1983.

France, however, leapt in front, by going from $137m to $1,017m, whilst the US increased from $372m to $2,557m.

The Germans also overtook Britain, with sales that went from $26m to $470m, whilst Italy increased from $20m to $458m.

Total British defence sales are expected by the Government to be worth £2.6 billion in 1984/5.

Telecom hits BSA receipts

By Richard Thomson

Withdrawals of deposits by investors in British Telecom shares cut building societies' net receipts in November to £363 million, compared with record inflows for October of £1.1 billion. The decline, representing a loss of deposits of about £500 million, was about £100 million greater than expected.

October's figure was inflated by people "parking" their money in building societies before applying for Telecom shares. November's figures are usually depressed for seasonal reasons but were further hit by cuts in deposit rates during this month, the Building Societies Association said.

However, Mr Richard Weir, secretary general of the BSA, said the societies expect to regain some of the lost funds this month as cheques are returned to investors who did not receive as many Telecom shares as they requested. They also expect deposits from people selling their shares. The societies anticipate inflows of £600 million to £700 million in December.

Despite the reduced receipts, mortgage lending in November remained almost unchanged.

November upturn for US output

From Bailey Morris
Washington

US industrial production increased by 0.4 per cent last – after two months of steady decline – in another sign of renewed growth in the economy in recent weeks.

At the same time, the Commerce Department announced that the US Producer-Price Index rose by 0.5 per cent last month – for the first time since July. It was the largest monthly increase in the index, which measures the wholesale inflation rate, since last January, when it rose by 0.6 per cent.

The rise in producer prices supports this week's finding of a larger-than-expected jump in retail sales in November and points to what may be a new phase of consumer growth triggered by the Federal Reserve Board's easier monetary controls.

Industrial production of consumer goods rose by a full one per cent last month, largely on the strength of a sharp rebound in cars which increased by 7.5 per cent.

Meanwhile, business inventories increased for the sixteenth consecutive month, rising by 0.8 per cent of $4.7 billion in October.

The rise in production, retail sales and prices after a big drop in the unemployment rate last month leads many to conclude that the economy, which has been in a sharp slowdown in recent months, is still on a growth course.

Talks continue on Hambro bid

Mr Mark Weinberg, who built the insurance group Hambro Life from scratch, was still locked in talks yesterday to decide the future of the £600 million business.

But while stock market rumours continued to link BAT Industries and the American banking group Citicorp most closely with Hambro Life, there was speculation over the future of Mr Weinberg.

He holds a stake worth £10 million in the group and while any bidder would no doubt be happy to see him carry on in his present role some sources were suggesting he may be ready to accept another challenge

Maxwell rules out bonus

By Cliff Feltham

Mr Robert Maxwell, publisher of the *Daily Mirror*, is being branded a "scrooge" by his printing workers for refusing to give them a Christmas bonus.

The 1,370 employees at his Odhams-Sun works at Watford had been expecting up to £200 each as part of a £1 million handout planned by the parent British Printing and Communications Corporation.

But now Mr Maxwell has decided not to pay them anything because the plant has failed to meet its profit targets.

Mr Reginald Mogg, managing director of Odhams-Sun, said: "The bonuses are not being paid because the criteria laid down by Mr Maxwell has not been met. The profit targets have been missed by a wide margin."

Mr Mogg, who announced the decision to the work-force, admitted it had caused "some disappointment." It is understood several other parts of the BPCC empire, Purnells in Bristol, the Chromo works in the Midlands, and the East Kilbride plant, which prints the *Radio Times*, are being written off Mr Maxwell's Christmas list.

Last year all employees in BPCC received a bottle of whisky at Christmas. The Year before bonuses of about £150 were paid.

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

FT Ind Ord	935.4(+7.8)
FT-A All Share	N/A
FT Govt Securities	82.34(−0.24)
FT-SE 100	1,204.8(+8.1)
Bargains	27,921
Datastream USM	106.40(+0.74)
New York	
Dow Jones	1,175.90(+7.07)
Tokyo	
Nikkei Dow	11419.15(+79.10)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	1,142.09(+15.60)
Amsterdam:	178.1(−0.4)
Sidney:	718.7(+2.4)
Frankfurt:	
Commerzbank	1,077.6(−6.9)
Brussels:	
General	157.1(−1.49)
Paris: CAC	180.7(−0.2)
Zurich:	
SKA General	318.30(−0.50)

GOLD

London fixing:
am $321.75pm-$322.50
close $322.25-$322.75
New York: $323.50

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
J Causton	103p +29p
Powell Duffryn	420p +84p
Metal Sciences	14p +2p
United Spring	18p +2½p
V W Thermax	136p +18p
Cifer	26p +3p
Peek Holdings	26p +3p
Audiotronic	9½p +1p
Rotaprint	8p +1p
The Body Shop	470p +45p
Equity & Law Life	271p +21p
Breville Europe	113p +1p
name	+
name	+
name	+
FALLS:	
Portland Holdings	3p −2p
Cecil Gee	180p −10p
Microvitec	113p −15p
Biomechanics	18p −2p
Double Eagle	29p −3p
Mersey Docks	37p −3p
Yorkshire Chemicals	65p −5p
Feedex Agricultural	33p −2p
name	−
name	−

CURRENCIES

London:
£: $1.1920 (+0.0020)
£: DM 3.6895 (−0.0040)
£: SwFr 3.0490 (+0.0035)
£: FFr 11.3125(−0.01)
£: Yen 295.35 (+0.85)
£ Index: 74.2 (−0.1)

New York:
£: $1.1937
$: DM 3.0895
$ Index: 143.3 (+0.2,

INTEREST RATES

London:
Bank Base: 9¾%–9½
3-month Interbank 9¾–9⁵⁄₃₂
3-month elgible bills 9⅛–9⁵⁄₃₂
buying rate

US:
Prime Rate 11.25–11.50
Federal Funds 8.⅞%
3-month Treasury Bills 8.04–8.00%
Long bond yield 101¹³⁄₃₂–101¹⁷⁄₃₂

WALL STREET

Share gains widen

New York (AP-Dow Jones) – Shares widened their gains yesterday after trading became more brisk.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose about 6.5 points to above 1,175 and the transportation average showed a rise of about 1.5.

Advancing issues were about 7 to 6 ahead of declines.

Mr Joseph Feshbach, chief market analyst for Prudential-Bache Securities, saw only two reasons for the spurt in the blue chips. He said "First, bonds are up strongly and, second, stocks have been annihilated over the past 20 to 25 days so we are seeing a rebound. But I don't believe this can be sustained."

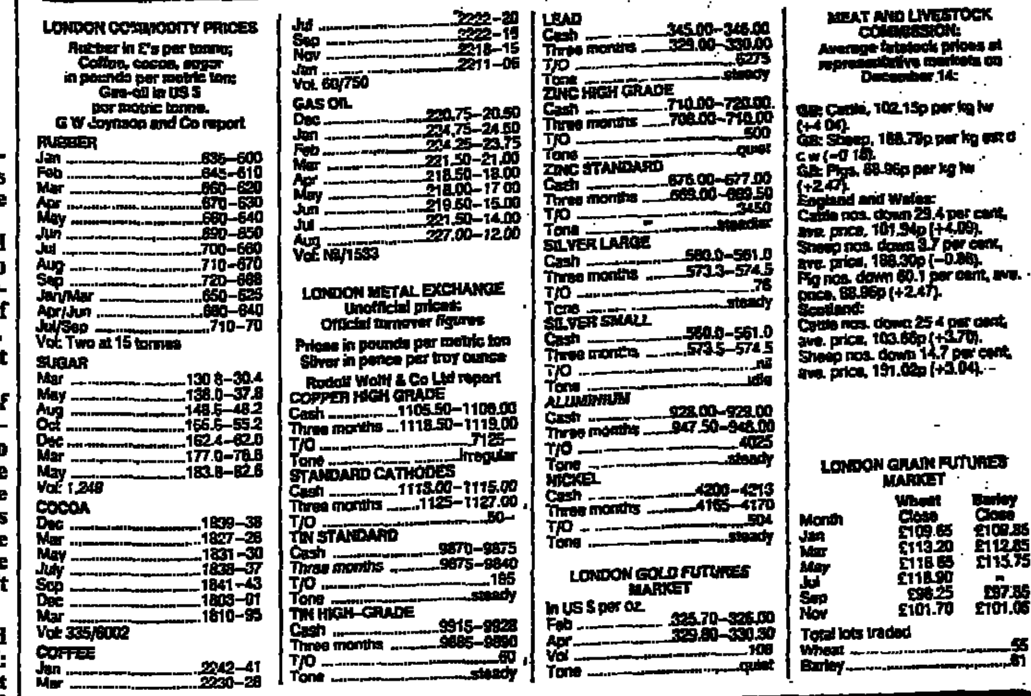
He pointed out that IMB led the rise in the Dow and added: "The stock has led every market turn in the past three years and it may get up to 120 here. But I would look for it then to move back down to around 110."

International Business Machines was up 1⅜ to 118⅝; General Motors up ⅞ to 74⅞; Digital Equipment up 1 at 103¾; Union Carbide up ⅜ to 37⅜; Honeywell up ⅜ to 59; General Electric up ⅜ 55⅜; Exxon up ⅛ at 43¼ and Merck up ⅝ at 89⅝.

Castle & Cooke was trading at 12¼ down 1⅞; Varian Associates 35 down 1; Chicago Milwaukee 180 off 1½; Dorsey 27 up 1⅜; American Broadcasting 62¾ up 2⅜; CBS 71 up 2; ASA Ltd 47¾ down 1; Matsushita 59¾ up 2¾ and Angat 19⅜ down 1⅛.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

COMMODITIES



APPOINTMENTS

Samuel Montagu: Sir Michael Palliser, has been elected chairman of Samuel Montagu and its parent company; Samuel Montagu (Holdings) Gadd. The following are new appointments to the board of Samuel Montagu Holdings: Mr Gordon T Pepper, Mr Paul Jeanty, Mr Peter A D Giblin, Mr Derek J Hughes, Mr Ian A N McIntosh, Mr David R W Potter, Mr Christopher J Sheridan and Mr David R Stevens. Mr Sheridan is to be chief executive officer of the bank.

The Institute of Public Relations: Mr Kevin Traverse-Healy has been elected president to succeed Mr Peter Smith.

Reed Publishing: Mr William Wilks has become commerical director.

Peabody International: Mr E Gordon Reeves is named marketing directore of European operations.

P–B Securities, Down, de Boer & Duckett: Mr Robert Luetchford has been made assistant director, technology.

Bryant Holdings: Mr Terry Flower, deputy managing director of Bryant Homes and Mr Ken Harvey, managing directore of Bryant Construction are to join the board.

ICE: Mr Cliff Wyatt has been made marketing director.

DAS Legal Expenses Insurae Company: Mr A E Holdsworth has been appointed a director.

BASF United Kingdom: Dr Juergen Strube has been appointed to the main board of BASF Aktiengesellschaft from January 1. Dr Detlef Dibbern has been made personnel director.

Aidcom International: Mr Dudley Fishburn has been appointed a non-executive director.

Airship Industries: Mr Alan Birchmore has become managing director, London.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Money conditions stayed comfortable for much of the session, even though the shortage more than doubled during the day.

Period rates, at least at the short end of the market, tended to soften a shade, although the level of business was modest.

Overnight money dipped to about 8½–8 per cent on the early forecast, only to return to an opening level of about 9 per cent when the swing against the market was revealed.

However, completion of the Bank's programme of help saw the rate slip to about 5 per cent in final dealings.

Dollar markets traded quietly, with US economic pointers not sufficiently out of line with expectations to shift rates significantly.

Base Rates %
Clearing Banks 9½-9¼
Finance House 10½

Discount Market Loans %
Overnight: High 9 Low 3
Week fixed: 9-9¼

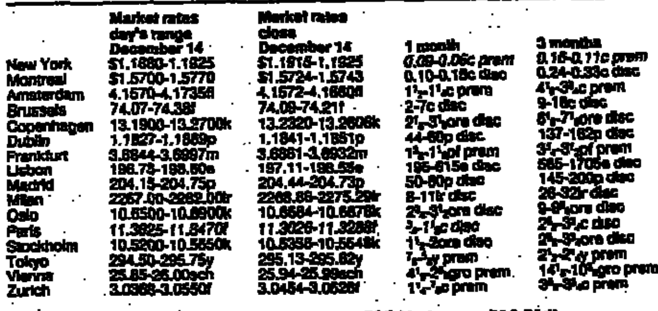
Treasury Bills (Discount %)

Local Authority Bonds (%)

Sterling CDs (%)

Dollar CDs (%)
1 month 8.85-8.75 3 months 9-8.90
6 months 9.35-9.25 12 months 10.20-10

EURO-CURRENCY DEPOSITS %



TREASURY BILL TENDER

Applications: £445, 850m allotted £100m
Bids at £97.73% received 28%
Last week: £97.73% received 37%
Average rate: £9.0906% Last week: £9.0894%
Next week: £100m replace £100m

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

The dollar slipped slightly in late trading on foreign exchanges. It had managed to maintain most of its strength for the greater part of the day.

The US unit rose to above the 3.1100 level against the mark at one stage, but the release of the Nov US Producer-Prices Index – showing a rise of 0.5 per cent compared with an expected rise of about 0.3 per cent – brought it back to below 3.1000.

The dollar then recovered some ground during the afternoon but lost the best to close 45 points down on the day at 3.1000.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

	Market rates day's range December 14	Market rates close December 14	1 month	3 months
New York	$1.1880-1.1925	$1.1915-1.1925	0.09-0.06c prem	0.16-0.11c prem
Montreal	$1.5700-1.5770	$1.5724-1.5743	0.10-0.18c disc	0.24-0.33c disc
Amsterdam	4.1570-4.1735fl	4.1572-4.1660fl	1½-1¼c prem	4½-3¾c prem
Brussels	74.07-74.38f	74.09-74.21f	2-7c disc	9-18c disc
Copenhagen	13.1900-13.2700k	13.2320-13.2606k	2½-3¼ore disc	6½-7¼ore disc
Dublin	1.1827-1.1869p	1.1841-1.1851p	44-60p disc	137-162p disc
Frankfurt	3.6844-3.6997m	3.6861-3.6932m	1¼-1⅛pf prem	3¾-3½pf prem
Lisbon	196.73-198.60e	197.11-198.55e	195-615e disc	565-1705e disc
Madrid	204.15-204.75p	204.44-204.73p	50-80p disc	145-200p disc
Milan	2267.00-2282.00lr	2268.86-2275.29lr	8-11lr disc	26-32lr disc
Oslo	10.6500-10.6900k	10.6684-10.6878k	2¾-3¼ore disc	9-9¾ore disc
Paris	11.3825-11.3470f	11.3026-11.3288f	½-1½c disc	2¾-3¾c disc
Stockholm	10.5200-10.5550k	10.5356-10.5548k	1¾-2ore disc	2¾-3¾ore disc
Tokyo	294.50-295.75y	295.13-295.82y	⅞-¾y prem	2½-2¼y prem
Vienna	25.85-26.00sch	25.94-25.99sch	4½-2¾gro prem	14½-10½gro prem
Zurich	3.0368-3.0550f	3.0454-3.0528f	1¼-⅞c prem	3½-3¼c prem

Sterling index compared with 1975 was down 0.1 at 74.2 (day's range 74.3-74.1).

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina peso*	188.64-188.95
Australia dollar	1.4248-1.4278
Bahrain dinar	0.4475-0.4515
Brazil cruzeiro*	3583.16-3584.04
Cyprus pound	0.7450-0.7550
Finland markka	7.6530-7.6930
Greece drachma	150.40-152.40
Hong Kong dollar	9.3399-9.3503
India rupee	14.50-14.70
Iraq dinar	n.a.
Kuwait dinar (KD)	0.3600-0.3640

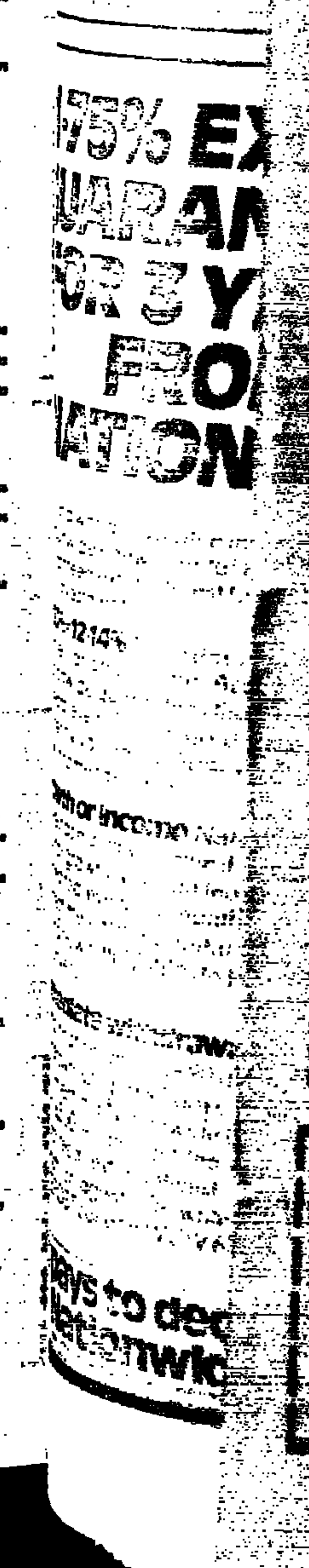
DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Ireland	1.0040-1.0060
Singapore	2.1750-2.1770
Malaysia	2.4140-2.4160
Australia	0.8363-0.8373
Canada	1.3206-1.3213
Sweden	8.8400-8.8550
Norway	8.9650-8.9700
Denmark	11.0950-11.1015
West Germany	3.0950-3.0980
Switzerland	2.5520-2.5570
Netherlands	3.4950-3.5000

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank HOFEX and Extel. *Lloyds Bank International.

AUTHORIZED UNIT TRUSTS

INSURANCE BONDS AND FUNDS



TEMPUS

Hanson times its first shot with perfection

Hanson Trust's timing is, as usual, superb. It has pounced on Powell Duffryn at a critical stage of the miners' strike and before benefits of PD's three-year capital programme have come through. Judging from the share price performance yesterday, this is only its first shot. Hanson's equity offer was 35p under the PD share price last night.

Hanson is making no claims about synergy. Quite baldly it says its own management style can earn more from PD assets, valued at between 340p and 400p per share, than the incumbent management.

Hanson's profits for the year to the end of September jumped 89 per cent in its 21st year of trading to a record £169 million with a market capitalization of £1.7 billion it is now among the top 20 companies in Britain.

The offer is by no means generous. It would give PD an exit price-earnings ratio of about 12 on the basis that profits this year would fall from £18.3 million to about £16.5 million.

PD would give Hanson, now a widely spread conglomerate here and in the US, new businessess of bulk liquid storage and fuel distribution; enable Hanson to tuck some of PD's construction parts into its own stable and precipitate a "for sale" sign over the shipping interests. They are valued at £46 million but would probably fetch nearer £25 million.

It will not be an easy defenc for PD. A £15 million right issue this year went on an American acquisition, which has not particularly pleased the market, rather than to cleaning the balance sheet. The company is presently 49 per cent geared.

Federal Reserve

Higher producer-prices and output data than the market had expected leave the Federal Reserve with some tricky policy options ahead of next week's Open Market Committee meeting – to tighten or not to tighten.

Ballooning broader monetary aggregated – $M3 rose nearly $40 billion in November – may forcast a turning point for the US economy, after the mid-year pause that refreshes. They could signal higher rates, if only to curb the current account deterioration.

Hence the fall $7 billion in $M-1 for the week to December 3 has been largely discounted, not least because the next set of figures are expected to be dreadful. Is the US monetary adjustment mechanism working correctly?

Conversely, the Fed is under heavy pressure to ease policy, if only to ensure some good growth numbers next year and dent the strength of the dollar. Falling funds rates reduced discount window borrowings may point to another cut shortly in the Fed discount rate.

A steepening yield curve suggests a sceptical bond market is taking nothing for granted, but no-one knows what will happen. Meanwhile, a tough-minded Bundesbank is setting face squarely against inflation. With price rises running at 2 per cent, outstanding growing at 4 pend an October current account surplus of DM6.4 billion, the monetary targets have still been trimmed for 1985 to 4 per cent mid-point. A stable yield curve tells its own story.

Phoenix

It has been a full house of troubles for Phoenix, the resurgent timber group. In the trading period up to the end of September, Phoenix, still heavily dependent on its timber importing side, endured two dock strikes, as well as the sharp drop in construction activity. Higher import costs, as sterling sagged, were also a burden.

The group's loss-making operation in West Yorkshire was badly hit by the miners' strike, leaving Phoenix with no other option but closure. Extraordinary charges below the line of £227,000 show the scale of the surgery.

Despite this catalogue of disasters, the underlying Phoenix business is probably in quite good shape, witness a mere £100,000 drop in pretax profits to £427,000; a 16 per cent tax charge points to the benefit of previous years' losses.

But the high level of gearing remains a problem. The interest charge, at £934,000, was more than double pretax profits. The shares are not high enough to justify a rights issue, nor low enough to warrant a capital reconstruction.

The shares closed 6p down at 120p.

Intasun

After a hair-raising summer, during which a record number of holiday firms crashed, Intasun has come through less scarred than some were fearing.

Taxable profits in the six months to the end of September were down 18 per cent at £16.5 million on a 43 per cent increase in the number of passengers carried. Margins were cut to ribbons by competitive pricing and no surcharge guarantees in a period of sterling weakness against the peseta.

The outlook for summer 1985 is hardly rosy. Bookings across the industry are down by 30 to 40 per cent, the miners' strike continues and prices for Spanish holidays are up by 20 per cent on average.

This winter will chip in a larger loss than last, at about £4.5 million against £3.5million, as winter sun holidays are selling less well. However, the prospective p/e ratio of just over 8 assuming full-year profits of £12million and tax at 40 per cent, does not make allowance for next year's recovery. The shares rose 1p to 116p.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Institutions' buying spree sends indices to record

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

Shares surged to new peaks yesterday as institutional investors went on a pre-Christmas buying spree.

Best levels were not always held but the two leading share indices finished at record levels after some often quite hectic trading.

Imperial Chemical Industries, even more of an American favourite after its £630 million US chemicals acquisition, led the way. At one time, its shares stood at 724p, representing a remarkable 36p upsurge. The pace, however, was too hot to last and they closed at 712p.

The group has, in recent month, become increasingly popolar with US investors as its American presence has become more apparent.

American shareholdings, as represented by the Morgan Guaranty ADRs, now accounts for nearly 17 per cent of the company, worth about £750 million.

British Telecom also made a significant contribution to the market's new high. At one time the shares touched 101½p. They then drifted before closing at 101p. There were signs yesterday that the flow of small shareholder selling was drying up.

BTR continued its recent progress, gaining 18p to 577p.

At the close, the *FT* 30 share index was at 935.4, up 7.8 points, and the *FT* SE share index was 1,204.8, an 8.1-point gain.

The weight of institutional money, hopes of lower interest rates, relief over BT and tax cut expectations were the main factors behind yesterday's equity exuberance.

But gilts were out of favour, pulled back by this week's disappointing money supply figures and sterling's continuing discomfort on the foreign exchange market.

Beer shares were once more in form with **Bass** taking up the running again, surging 15p to a 468p peak. **Whitbread** gained 3p to 217p and **Scottish and Newcastle Breweries**, ahead of figures, moved ahead 2½p to 132½p. **Grand Metropolitan**, out of favour for so long as analysts have downgraded profit expectations (the year's results are due on Thursday), advanced 10p to 313p as a large line of shares which have been overhanging the market was cleared.

Bath and Portland Group responded to the Whitehall merger all-clear with a 5p rise to 277p. The bidders **C. H. Beazer** was unchanged at 360p.

Trafalgar House rose 5p to 332p despite the disclosure that the Kuwait Investment Office had reduced its recently acquired shareholding.

Last month, the KIO said it had 7.2 per cent of Trafalgar. Yesterday, the stake was down to 6.4 per cent.

The KIO November declaration was made after intense activity in Trafalgar shares. It was the second time the KIO built up a stake in the building, hotel and shipping group. It had a significant shareholding for about ten years before selling out in the late 1970s.

Sir Joseph Causton, the printer, surged 29p to 103p as a takeover bid by the **Norton Opax** printing group loomed. Norton, which bid for John Waddington before the Robert Maxwell interest emerged, has purchased 21.6 per cent of Causton from **Fleet Holdings** at 95p a share.

Norton shares rose 3p to 148p and Fleet dipped 3p to 196p.

G.M.Firth, the metals group headed by Mr Ian Wasserman, has retired from the **East Lancashire Paper Group** scene. It has sold its 13.5 per cent ELPG stake to bidders **British Syphon Industries** at 100p a share. BSI now has 39 per cent of ELPG, 1p harder at 105p.

Some suffering in vain appears to be going on at **Microvitec**, the USM-listed computer peripherals group. Its share price has dropped steadily in the past week to a new trading low of 113p, after news of **Acorn Computers'** withdrawal from the US market.

Microvitec is known in Britain for its success in the educational market alongside Acorn, but Microvitec's US business is rather different. According to W Greenwell, stockbroker to the company, Microvitec has not pitched sales in America solely at the educational market as Acorn did, and will probably sell around 5,000 of its colour display monitors there, out of total 1984 sales of 85,000 or more. The broker still expects the company to make profits of £3.4 million this year, and £5 million next.

Elsewhere on the USM, there was plenty of life in **The Body Shop** again, the sahre price rising 30p to 455p, after touching 480p at one stage.

Cecil Gee shares dipped 10p to 180p as the company announced its withdrawal from bid talks.

V W Thermax, which makes toughened glass for a variety of uses, rallied 18p to 136p yesterday. The price has been weak for some time, although the shares traded above the 190p level this year. Interim results are expected in February.

Instem, which came to the USM only last month, continues its meteoric rise. The shares jumped another 25p to 225p, satisfactorily ahead of the 145p placing price.

Life insurance shares were again strong following the arrival of likely bidder for **Hambro Life Assurance**. **Sun Life** rose 18p to 757p. **Guardian Royal Exchange**, which has 10.3 per cent of JLA, slopped 8p to 668p. **Charterhouse J. Rothschild**, thought to have sold its 24.9 per cent JLA share stake, rose 5p to 100p.

Stores shares were bouyant on Christmas trading hopes. **Dixons Group**, with **Currys Group** in tow, jumped 30p to 507p. **British Home Stores** was 9p firmer at 275p and **Home Charm** gained 16p to 265p.

BSR International, the electricals group, held up well following news that sale of its Swan subsidiary to **Pifco** will not go ahead. Pifco pulled out of the £10 million deal, even though BSR says the kettle maker is producing results "ahead of expectations and significantly better than 1983".

BSR shares closed 2p higher at 138p, having dipped to 133p at one time. Pifco shares ended the day 8p lower at 140p.

West Country high-technology companies are coming into vogue after the successful launch of Penny & Giles on the USM this week, and one for the future looks to be Phosphor Products which makes electronic display equipment for aircraft and computers. Lyddon & Co, the stockbroker based in Cardiff, yesterday placed up to £1.488 million worth of shares privately to fund further expansion, and Phosphor is aiming for a public flotation in the next couple of years.

Falcon Resources rose 12p to 215p compared with a rights pirce of 85p in July. Word in the market is that the company, created by Mr Ronnie Monk, will soon reveal exciting progress at its Owl Creek, Colorado, operations.

COMPANY NEWS

● **POWERLINE INTERNATIONAL** has agreed to acquire Newstech Communications, for 1.4 million ordinary shares in Powerline with market value of about £3.4 million. Newstech is an advertising agency and public relations consultancy, serving the electronics, electrical and computing indusries.

● **WILLIAMS OF CARDIFF:** Year to Sept 30. No div (nil). Figs in £000. Turnover 10,300 (15,364). Pretax loss 270 (1,596). The closure of the window business has staunched the serious cash losses in the group, the board reports. The directors are now able to turn their full attention to the remaining businesses. The steel business in Cardiff has been reorganized and is now trading profitably, although there is still room for improvement.

● **PORTER CHADBURN:** Results for 26 weeks to July 6. No ord div (0.35p). Figs in £000. GRP. Turnover 6,374 (6,305). Pretax loss 217 (178 loss).

● **PINEAPPLE DANCE STUDIOS:** Year to July 31. Div 1.5p (same). Figs in £000. Turnover 1,729 (1,411). Pretax prft 209 (156).

INITIAL: Half-year to Sept 30. Int 4.75p (4.25p). Figs in £000. Turnover 128,869 (108,484). Pft. before tax 14,373 (13,555). Tax 5,864 (4,740). Minorities 334 (227). Eps 15.0p (15.9p).

NESCO INVESTMENTS: Half-year to Aug 31. Figures in £000. Turnover 2,239 (5,717). Pretax pft. 363 (209). Tax 169 (196). Results show a return to pft. following sale of all loss-making subs. in Jan, 84.

WILLAIRE SYSTEM: Half-year to Sept 30. Figs in £000. Turnover 1,112 (1,124) Loss before tax 29 (32) Tax (nil). The better first quarter's trading results could not be maintained in the face of the continuing deterioration in sterling. However, sales for the six months showed an increase over the second half of last year.

● **REED INTERNATIONAL:** Agreement has been reached, subject to contract, for the sale of the businesses trading as Index Printers and Thomson Photolitho to Ben Johnson and Co. The net book value of the assets being disposed amounts to about £5 million.

● **TEX ABRASIVES:** Int. Div. 0.75p (same). Figs. in £000. Turnover 2,883 (2,703). Pretax profit 167 (163).

● **CONTINUOUS STATIONERY:** Six months to September 30. Int. div. 0.45p (0.45p). Figs. in £000. Turnover 1,799 (2,141). Pretax loss 57 (prft. 160). No tax (83). Loss per share 1.14p (earnings 1.53p).

● **MITCHELL SOMERS:** Int. 1.5p (same). Turnover for half year to Sept 29 (figs. £000) 14,709 (13,321). Trading pft. 687 (212). Pre tax pft. 559 (9). The directors believe the results for 1984-85 will be reasonable. Group has performed well in the first six months and the directors are satisfied that the confidence displayed last year when the interim div. was maintained, despite inadequate pfts, has been justified.

● **JAMES GRANT (EAST):** An interim dividend of 3.125p (1.25p) has been declared. Results for the nine months to October 31 (figures in £000) show turnover of 3,804 (3,625) and pretax profit of 745 (408). The company's principal activity is now investment in property with ancillary interests in commodity trading, furnishing and a travel agency.

● **STEWART & WRIGHT:** Results for the six months to September 29 last (figs in £000) indicate turnover of 170 (118), profit before tax and depreciation of 28 (20) and net profit of 18 (9). Earnings per share rose to 37.02p (18.2p). But no interim dividend is being paid in accordance with previous practice.

● **GREENE KING AND SONS:** Half-year to Oct 28. Interim div. 1.54p (1.43p). Figs in £000. Grp. t/over 39,710 (36,816). Tdg. pft. 3,486 (3,139). Pretax profit 3,680 (3,440). Trading conditions remain highly competitive, but the board is confident that it will be able to report a profit growth for the year when announcing the results next July.

● **NTH. MIDLAND CONSTRUCTION:** No final, mkg. nil (0.65p) for year to Aug 31. Figs in £000. Grp t/over 6,968 (7,426). Pretax loss 121 (pft. 13).

● **A MONK AND CO:** Half-year to Aug 31. Int. 2p (same). Figs in £000. Turnover 50,000 (52,000). Pretax pft. 649 (1,137). For this current year Monk expects trading conditions to remain difficult and further investment in new activities to continue to affect investment income. Results for the full year will, therefore, not reach the level of 1983–84. Nevertheless, Monk's workload is holding up well and the board sees no reason why the level of dividend for the year should not be maintained.

● **ELDRIDGE POPE AND CO:** Final 2.8p, mkg. 4.9p (4.25p) for year to Sept 30. Figs in £000. T/over 22,372 (20,190). Pretax pft. 2,345 (2,247).

● **CLUFF OIL:** Half-year to June 30. (Comp. restated). No intm. div. Figs in £000. T/over 904 (630). Gross prft. 241 (399). Pretax loss 348 (724).

● **FOBEL INTERNATIONAL:** Interim dividend 0.2p (1.2p) for six months to June 30. The decision to pay a smaller interim dividend was taken with regret. The dividend for the full year will be considered in the light of progress to date. Figures in £000. Turnover 10,398 (16,383). Group pretax 41 (1,212). The results for 1984 cannot be anything but disappointing, the situation in Britain is encouraging. Canada is progressing and with a materializing of the anticipated return to substantial profitibility of the electronics division in 1985, it ishoped that a return to normal levels of earnings and dividends will be possible, with a resumption of growth thereafter.

● **IRISH DISTILLERS:** Year to Sept 30. Total gross dividend 9.28p (7.94.). Figs in Irish £000. Turnover 184,980 (126,987). Profit before tax 11,226 (9,705).

BAGGERIDGE BRICK: Year to Sept 30. Total dividend 25 per cent (21 per cent). Figures in £000. Turnover 8,776 (7,238). Pretax profit 1,596 (837).

BRAITHWAITE ENG: Int div 4p (same). It is the directors' intention, barring unforeseen circumstances, to recommend that the final div for the year be maintained at last year's level. Figs in £000. Turnover 3,391 (3,500). Pretax loss 218 (pft 307). No tax (92).

● **ARCHIMEDES INVEST:** Year to October 31. Total dividend 9p (8.61p). Gross revenue £183,057 (£172,790). Tax £46,685 (£43,965). Net earnings per income share 8.86p (8.47p). Net asset value per capital share 231.67p (176.54p).

PARKFIELD GROUP: Int 0.80p. Turnover for half-year ended October 27 £2.04 million (£1.51 million). Pretax profit £110,500 (£67,000). The results for the second half of the year should be appreciably better than the first half and cash flow is continuing to improve. The company has now eliminated net debt and is building meaningful cash balances. With these factors in mind, they believe it appropriate to resume payment of interim dividends.

RECENT ISSUES

	Closing Price
Access Satellite Int 5p Ord (150a)	180-2
Addison Comm 2p Ord (116a)	193
Alida Holdings 25p Ord (140a)	166
Appledore A & P 10p Ord (87)	90
Breakmate 10p Ord (100a)	116
CVD Inc Com Stock $0.01 (105a)	140
Checkpoint Europe 25p Ord (a)	216+7
Craton Lodge & Knight 1p Ord (115a)	165–1
Gabicci 5p Ord (75a)	96
Hawtal Whiting 5p Ord (197a)	253+3
Instem 10p Ord (145a)	223+23
Klark-Teknik 5p Ord (85a)	115
Media Technology 20p Ord (117a)	179
Oldacre Hldgs 20p Ord	108
PSM Int 25p (140)	161
Penny & Giles 25p Ord (130a)	160+2
Plasmec 10p Ord (70a)	74–1
Shares Drug Stores 10p Ord (140a)	193
Stone International 20p Ord (125)	140
T & S Stores 5p Ord (a)	119
U D O Holdings 10p Ord (110a)	124
Wardle Storeys 10p (132)	169+2
Wales City of Lon Prop 25p Ord (100)	117+1
Williams (R) Leisure 5p Ord (206)	22

Issue price in parentheses a Unlisted Securities, * by tender.

FAMILY MONEY

FAMILY MONEY MARKET

Banks
Current account – no interest paid. Deposit accounts – seven days notice required for withdrawals. Barclays 6.5 per cent, Lloyds and NatWest 6.25 per cent, Midland 6 per cent. National Girobank 7 per cent. *Lloyds extra interest 9.5 per cent. Nat West 8.25 per cent. Fixed term deposits £10,000-£24,999, 1 month 9 per cent, 3 months 9 per cent, 6 months 8.875 per cent. Rates quoted by National Westminster. Other banks may differ.

MONEY FUNDS

Fund	Flat	APR	Telephone
Aitken Hume monthly inc.	9.25	9.65	01 638 6070
B of Scotland	9.25	9.65	01 628 8060
Britannia call	9.0	9.381	01 588 2777
Oppenheimer Money Management Account	8.750	9.04	01 236 9362
S & P call	9.0	9.41	0708 66966
Schroder Wagg	8.90	9.27	0705 827733
" over £10,000	9.15	9.54	0705 827733
Tullet & Riley call	8.77	8.98	01 236 0952
T & R 7 day	9.36	9.60	01 236 0952
Tyndall 7 day	9.375	9.717	0272 732241
Tyndall call	9.307	9.626	0272 732241
UDT 7 day	9.⅞	9.12	01 626 4681
Western Trust 1 month	9.13	9.52	0752 261161
Henderson Money Market Cheque Account	9.25	9.653	01 638 5757
M & G Hica	9.3	9.74	01 626 4588
HFC Trust 7 day	9.5	9.72	01 236 8391

National Savings Bank
Ordinary accounts – interest 6 per cent on £500 minimum on deposit for whole of 1984, otherwise 3 per cent. Investment Account – 11¼ per cent interest paid without deduction of tax, months notice of withdrawal, maximum investment £50,000.

National Savings Income Bond
Min. investment £2,000 – max. £50,000. Interest – 12.75 per cent variable at six weeks notice reducing to 12 per cent from 2nd January – paid monthly without deduction of tax. Repayment at 3 months notice. Penalties in first year.

National Savings 2nd Index-linked certificates
Maximum investment £10,000, excluding holdings of other issues. Return tax-free and linked to changes in the retail price index. Supplement of 0.25 per cent per month up to October 1985 paid to new investors; existing holders receive a 3.0 per cent supplement between October 1984 and October 1985 4 per cent bonus if held full five years to maturity. Further 4 per cent after 10 years. Retirement Issue Certificates purchased in December 1979, £162 including bonus and supplement.

National Savings Certificates
29th issue. Return totally free of income and capital gains tax, equivalent to an annual interest rate over the five-year term of 8 per cent, maximum investment £5,000.

National Savings Yearly Plan
A one year regular savings plan converting into four-year savings certificates. Minimum £20. Maximum £100 a month. Return over five years 9.06 per cent – tax free.

Guaranteed Income Bonds
Return paid net of basic rate tax, higher rate taxpayers may have a further liability on maturity.
2 years Capital Life 7.75 per cent. 3 years New Direction Finance 8.3 per cent. 4 years New Direction Finance 8.5 per cent. 5 years New Direction Finance 8.75 per cent.

Local authority town hall bonds
Fixed term, fixed rate investments, interest quoted gross (basic rate tax deducted at source reclaimable by non-taxpayers). 1 yr Neath 10 per cent. 2 yrs Kent 10¼ per cent. 3 yrs Sheffield City 10⅜ per cent. 4 yrs West Yorkshire 11½ per cent. 5 yrs Bournemouth 10¾ per cent. 6 yrs Edinburgh 11 per cent. 7-10 yrs Northampton 11 per cent.
Further details available from Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy, Loans Bureau (638 6361 between 10am and 2.30pm) see also on Prestel no 24808.

Building societies
Ordinary share accounts – 6.75 per cent. Extra interest accounts usually pay 1 per cent over the ordinary share rate. Regular savings schemes – 1.25 per cent over BSA advised ordinary share rate. Rates quoted above are those most commonly offered. Individual building societies may quote different rates. Interest on all accounts paid net of basic rate tax. Not reclaimable by non-taxpayers.

Foreign currency deposits
Rates quoted by Rothschild's Old Court Intl. Reserves 0481 26741. Seven days notice is required for withdrawal and no charge is made for switching currencies.

Sterling	3.51 per cent
US dollar	7.84 per cent
Yen	5.19 per cent
D Mark	4.54 per cent
French Franc	9.49 per cent
Swiss Franc	3.10 per cent

November RPI: 341.9.

FAMILY MONEY edited by Lorna Bourke

SHARE SWAPPING

Unit trusts out in force to woo British Telecom investors

There is no shortage of buyers for your spare British Telecom shares and many financial institutions are keen to offer special deals to those who *want to* sell. Maggie Drummond has been investigating the unit trust "share exchange" schemes available.

I THOUGHT I'D HELP YOU DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH OUR TELECOM SHARES..

Smith

What are you going to do with your British Telecom shares? Sell them for a quick profit? Hold on to them? Or will you be lured by the unit trust industry, out in force this weekend hoping to persuade first-time shareholders to reinvest the lot with them?

Almost all unit trust groups offer share exchange schemes through which investors can effectively swap a portfolio of individual shares for the equivalent value of units in a fund of their choice.

The normal criterion for minimum portfolio size varies from group to group. But several are reducing their *minima* especially for British Telecom shareholders – partly because the unit trust funds want more British Telecom shares – partly because dealing *with one* share is administratively cheap – and partly because the Telecom *flotation* was expected to whet the appetite for other forms of equity investment.

Not everyone agrees with this latter point. "As far as the creation of wider share ownership is concerned, British Telecom is a red herring", says Mr Tony Doggart of Save & Prosper. S & P will accept a minimum of 400 Telecom shares, at the offer price, in exchange for units (also at the higher offer price) in one of it funds.

Target considers that it will take a smaller number than that *from investors* who want to swap for its Equity Fund. Mr Andrew McKinna of Target says: "We think that first-time shareholders should have the *chance to follow one of the* fundamental rules of investment and spread their risks by switching money to unit trusts".

Other groups shy away from plugging this line because of the Government's keenness to create and maintain a new class of small shareholder. But by picking a unit trust group with a small minimum portfolio or a special Telecom share deal even the most modest Telecom holder will be able to effect a share exchange.

The main advantage for the Telecom shareholder is that a switch avoids commission costs on any sale. The disadvantage is that by going into the unit trust you effectively "lose" between 5 and 7 per cent on the spread between the unit trust's bid and offer price. And investors should note that a share exchange counts as a disposal for capital gains tax purposes, although this has practical significance only for those with total profits of more than £5,600 in the present tax year.

But anyone exchanging a larger portfolio into unit trusts could well run up against this problem. Usually the unit trust group can arrange to stagger the exchange over two years.

British Telecom apart, unit trust groups report brisk business in share exchange, despite the efforts of stockbrokers to attract private clients.

As a general rule shares that can be added to existing holdings in the unit trust funds are exchanged at the full offer price with no commission payable. But holdings that the unit trust managers do not want will be sold and investors will be exchanged at the lower bid price.

Usually brokerage and sale costs will be covered by the unit trust group but not always. M & G, for instance, will cover selling costs for bargains only in individual shares of £1,000 or more and some other groups have similar rules for shares they do not want in their own funds.

So before you swap your ragbag of obscure penny stocks for a unit trust, ask carefully about the precise terms of the deal.

Share exchange schemes

Unit trust group	Minimum portfolio	Special British Telecom offer
Save & Prosper	£2,500	400 shares exchange
Target	£2,500	Any number exchange
Britannia	£500	No
Arbuthnot Latham	£500	NO
Allied Hambros	£250	Any number exchange
Fidelity	£1,000	£500
M&G	£500 or 100 unit trust units	No

MORTGAGES

Professionals prefer repayment loans

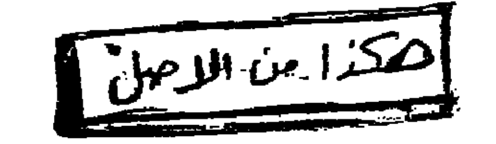
National & Provincial's home-buying customers earn on average £9,514 a year, purchase a modern (1920-1982) semi-detached property for £29,621, and take out an endowment mortgage of £20,682 to pay for it.

National & Provincial is one of the few building societies able to survey its customers according to occupation. Its survey shows, predictably, that top management and professional groups buy the most expensive properties, but borrow less of the purchase price (61 per cent) as an advance, compared with junior and middle management (69.5 per cent), manual workers (77.2 per cent) and the services industry group (76.8 per cent).

Perhaps the most interesting statistic is that self-employed, top management and professionals have a higher proportion of repayment rather than endowment mortgages (about 30 per cent), while only 16 per cent of manual workers and 17 per cent of the services group prefer repayment loans.

This would indicate that professionals believe that a repayment loan is a better deal. Manual workers have been "sold" the endowment method.

Vicars and minister, along with students and trainees, buy expensive property in relation to their income, but students and trainees obtain a higher advance."



FAMILY MONEY

Tax planner

It is worth taking the trouble to understand capital transfer tax because if you do not you could leave your dependants with a problem.

The latest edition of the *Allied Hambro Capital Taxes and Estates Planning Guide* is a comprehensive review of all capital taxes, and includes sections on estate planning, tax minimization, drawing up a will, the formation and administration of trusts and a mass of related matter. It is published by Oyez Longman, and is available price £10.95 from bookshops.

Taxman's interest

Has the Inland Revenue been looking at application forms for British Telecom? A reader who prefers to remain anonymous wants to know.

"I applied for British Telecom shares and was allotted 200. On the day the letter of allotment arrived I also received a letter from the tax-man asking if I paid tax, where and when did I file my last tax return. Is this just coincidence?"

We do not know, but the Inland Revenue does have some unconventional ways of tracking down tax evaders – including reading the small-ads for holiday lets of country homes, goods sold at auctions and the like.

Slow broker

Anyone who is a customer of National Westminster will know that it has an excellent insurance broking division which produces some of the most competitive house contents policies available (particularly if you live in high-risk areas). Or will they?

Having recommended the policy to two members of *The Times* staff, they rang the insurance broking division direct and asked for details to be sent to their home address. Three weeks later they are still trying to find out how to buy contents insurance – neither have even received an acknowledgement of their request.

£5m target

Last chance to invest in one of the more promising looking Business Expansion companies – Central City Conversions, which buys up property in central London, then converts it into flats. This is one of the less risky areas for BES investment since much of the company's money is necessarily tied up in an appreciating asset.

Johnson Fry is sponsoring the company which qualifies for tax relief under the scheme and has taken in £2.4 million to date. Applications are expected to reach the £5 million target before next Friday's closing date. Details from Johnson Fry, 39 Dover Street, London W1X 3RB (Tel: 01-499 5066).

No mortgage queues

No mortgage queues in 1985 is the message from National & Provincial Building Society which is forecasting an inflow of funds for the industry over the coming year, at least as high as this year's record £8,000 million.

"Mortgage queues are a thing of the past," says Mr Derek Booth, general manager. "Building societies are determined to be much more competitive in attracting investors' money which provides the funds for loans to homebuyers."

The review highlights the fact that throughout 1984 building societies have paid investors a rate of return at least 4 per cent above the rate of inflation. Owner occupation has risen to 63 per cent and mortgage advances of over £20,000 million have been made by building societies.

Savings gift

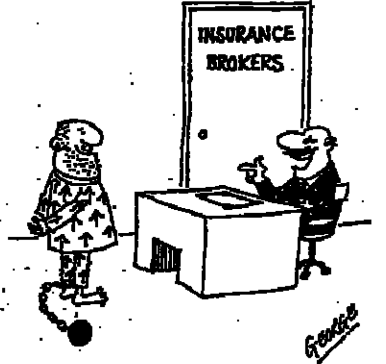
The Fund manager M & G is promoting its regular savings plan as an ideal Christmas present for a child. You can start with as little as £20 and add to the orginal sum at birthdays and subsequent Christmases. The plan can be linked to a choice of 23 M & G unit trusts. Details from M & G Group, Three Quays, Tower Hill, London EC3R. Tel: 01-626 4588.

Aid for disabled

Knowing your rights is often difficult – doubly so for the disabled for whom the social security system is a minefield.

The latest edition of the *Disability Rights Handbook* gives full details of all social security benefits available, including the new Severe Disablement Allowance, and offers help and guidance on other topics from tax to housing repairs.

The book is available price £2.20 post free from the Disability Alliance ERA, 25 Denmark Street, London WC2.



"I think something maturing in about 20 years could suit you."

Free tax advice

Specialist tax advice is expensive if you buy the time of an accountant. But you can obtain much free information from accountants' own publications. Two new booklets from Coopers & Lybrand are *Taxation and Farming* and *Services to the Smaller Business.*

Copies are available to anyone who writes to Coopers & Lybrand, Abacus House, Gutter Lane, Cheapside, London, EC2V 8AH. (Telephone: 01-606 4040).

Lloyd's guide

In spite of the scandals which have rocked Lloyd's of London in recent years, there is no shortage of applicants for membership of the insurance market. But becoming a "name" and risking all in the insurance market is not for the fainthearted, says Dearden Farrow, the accountancy firm.

"Unlimited liability is the risk that must be undertaken in order to have the benefits of making personal capital work twice", says Dearden's guide to becoming a member of Lloyd's, *Making a Name*".

However, the fear of loss has not deterred would-be members. The number of underwriting names has gone up from 18,552 in 1980 to 26,000 by 1985.

Copies of the guides are available from Dearden Farrow, 1 Serjeants' Inn, London EC4Y 1JD.

Say it with money

If you have given up trying to think of a Christmas present for a difficult friend or relative, Halifax Building Society is producing Gift Cheques, starting at £5. These can be bought from all branches of the Halifax, regardless of whether you have an account with the society.

The Gift Cheque can be invested in a new or existing Halifax savings account where it will earn interest in the usual way. For children up to the age of 11, a Gift Cheque also means automatic membership of the Little Extra Club which comes with a free pack of goodies, including a money box in the shape of a house.

All the Gift Cheques come in a special presentation card which can be chosen by the purchaser and there are different designs to suit most needs. Details from all branches of Halifax Building Society.

Free banking

It did not take Barclays Bank long to react to the threat from the Midland which recently announced free banking for all customers who keep their account in credit. Barclays is offering free banking to all its retired customers who keeps his or her current account in credit from the quarter which began on December 3. The free banking is not automatic so, if you are eligible, make sure you apply to your branch. The bank manager will not necessarily know if you are over 55 or retired.

Cash for charity

We cannot all emulate Bob Geldof and his musician friends and raise £1.75 million for Ethiopia, but if you are thinking of making a Christmas donation to a charity, it is worth taking a look at a fresh scheme from Charities Aid Foundation.

CAF has teamed up with Hoare Govett, the stockbrokers, to offer a new portfolio management service on which the income from investments goes to charity.

The investor adopts an investment strategy to suit his own requirements and the income from the portfolio is sent to CAF (via a tax efficient deed of covenant) for subsequent distribution to the charities of the investor's choice. The investor gets a book of charity credits which are used like bank cheques and sent directly to the charities.

Details from Hoare Govett Ltd, Heron House, 319/325 High Holborn, London WC1 (Tel: 01-404 0344).

INVESTMENT

Plough your cash into a garden

The promoters of Business expansion companies have not been deterred by the Chancellor's ban on farming funds as qualifying investments for the generous tax relief available on BES investments.

Next best thing looks like garden centres where most of the assets of the company are in the land on which the centre stands. Country Gardens plc is looking for £1 million to acquire sites for garden centres in the home counties and is offering shares to the public which qualify for tax relief under the BES scheme.

The beauty of this type of operation is, that if the gardening business does not live up to expectations, (or even if it does) there is no reason why the company should not apply for planning permission and selling the land at a tidy profit. Investors' money is backed by the solid asset of freehold land. Minimum investment is £2,500 and the closing date for applications is Jaunary 31 (though if enough money comes in before that date, the fund may be closed).

Investors will be eligible for tax relief at their highest rate on up to £40,000 invested in BES schemes during the present tax year.

Country Gardens says: "There has been a rapid growth in the sales of garden products, reflecting the increased amount of leisure time available to the population."

But the crucial line in the prospectus is the one which says: "The directors will pay particular attention to the need to enhance site values".

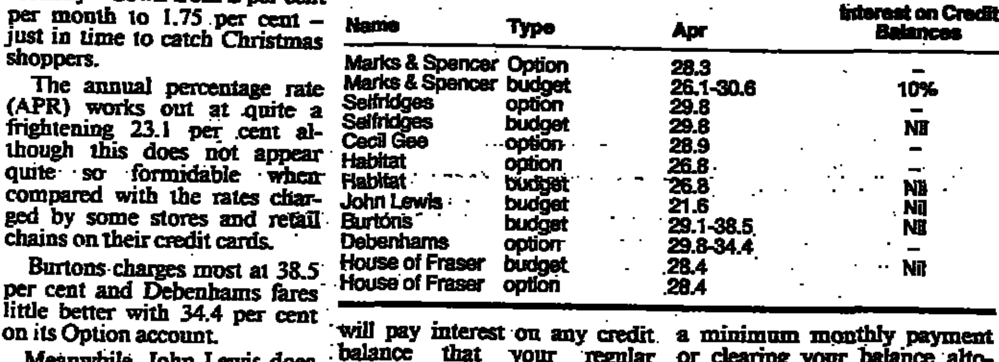
Copies of the prospectus from Courthand Financial Services, 56 High Street, Esher, Surrey, KT10 9RQ. (Tel: 0372 65662).

CREDIT CARDS

High cost of convenience

Access brought its interest charges into line with Visa recently – down from 2 per cent per month to 1.75 per cent – just in time to catch Christmas shoppers.

The annual percentage rate (APR) works out at quite a frightening 23.1 per cent although this does not appear quite so formidable when compared with the rates charged by some stores and retail chains on their credit cards.



STORE CREDIT

Name	Type	Apr	Interest on Credit Balances
Marks & Spencer	Option	28.3	–
Marks & Spencer	budget	26.1-30.6	10%
Selfridges	option	29.8	–
Selfridges	budget	29.8	Nil
Cecil Gee	option	28.9	–
Habitat	option	26.8	–
Habitat	budget	26.8	Nil
John Lewis	budget	21.6	Nil
Burtons	budget	29.1-38.5	Nil
Debenhams	option	29.8-34.4	–
House of Fraser	budget	28.4	Nil
House of Fraser	option	28.4	

Burtons charges most at 38.5 per cent and Debenhams fares little better with 34.4 per cent on its Option account.

Meanwhile, John Lewis does better than Access and Visa with the 21.6 per cent it charges on its Budget account.

A budget account is one where you agree in advance with the store to pay a certain fixed amount each month – say £20. In return you are allowed to borrow a multiple of this amount, for example 20 times with John Lewis and Selfridges.

You can, if you like, pay off the outstanding balance on these accounts at any time. But they are not very attractive ways of financing your purchases; the interest rates are high, and, of those stores listed in the table, only Marks and Spencer will pay interest on any credit balance that your regular monthly payments might create.

It is at least worth knowing, however, that making the monthly payment by standing order does reduce the APR charged by some stores.

For instance, Burton's 38.5 per cent rate tumbles to 29.1 per cent if you adopt the standing order route.

Similarly, Marks and Spencer lops a healthy 4.5 per cent interest off its budget accounts for standing order payments.

Cheaper APRs are usually levied on the option accounts: with Access and Visa these give you the choice between making a minimum monthly payment or clearing your balance altogether.

Another variation on the store credit theme is the monthly account: this is akin to charge cards such as American Express and Diners Club in that you have to pay off the entire sum owing at the end of each month.

Finally, it is worth bearing in mind the equal liability provisions of the Consumer Credit Act 1974. These give you equal rights against the company providing credit where the store you buy at breaks its contract or goes bust.

For instance, if something your buy is defective then, broadly speaking, you would have the same rights of compensation from the finance company as you would from the store itself.

These provisions recently proved useful when a cordless telephone dialled too many wrong numbers for finger-slipping to blame.

The store's intial reluctance to replace the defective telephone vanished when confronted with the information that payment had been made by credit card and the bill would remain unpaid when it arrived.

In effect the Consumer Credit Act provisions coupled with payments by credit card give you the vital bargaining weapon of not having paid money at the start.

The only snag is that the goods you buy must cost at least £100 (and not more than £10,000) for the provisions to apply. This is a single item limit: in other words the item in question must cost £100 for you to enjoy the protection of the Act.

Lawrence Lever

LOANS

Spreading Christmas bills over the year

The cost of Christmas cheer can be substantial. So what are the ways of financing it to reduce the expense to the minimum?

The simplest way to pay for Christmas is by cash if you happen to have enough around – although it is neither convenient nor safe.

The alternative is credit, which can be obtained from several sources: credit card companies, banks, hire purchase companies and the building societies.

One way to defer costs is simply to run up an Access or Barclaycard debt. Unfortunately, it is also expensive. Both companies now charge 1.75 per cent a month, which amounts to a real annual rate of 23.1 per cent.

The main alternative to immediate credit is an overdraft on which the clearing banks will charge anywhere between 12.5 and 15.5 per cent, depending on the customer. There may also be a facility fee for arranging the overdraft of £10 or £20.

Overdrafts look much cheaper than borrowing on a credit card, but banks are not keen to let them run for long periods. And the real cost of an overdraft may not immediately be obvious because as soon as you go into the red you will start paying bank charges.

If your overdraft lasts for more than a few months the bank is likely to start urging you to put it on the more formal basis of a personal loan. Most banks are charging an APR of about 19 or 20 per cent.

Banks also prefer to give loans for something specific – like buying a car. They are not generally keen to lend for the vague purpose of buying presents. Moreover, though cheaper, bank loans have to be paid off in set instalments over a fixed period.

Cheapest of all, if you can persuade your bank manager, is a loan account which is separate from your current account, but the interest charged is the same as for an overdraft.

Most banks offer revolving credit loans under various names. It involves making a fixed monthly payment into an account on which you receive interest of about 7.5 per cent when in credit. You can borrow up to 30 times your monthly payment (usually to a maximum of £3,000) but you will have to pay over 20 per cent when the account is overdrawn.

Lastly, building societies like the Leeds and Cheltenham & Gloucester will grant loans or purposes other than housebuying. Although these are not eligible for tax relief, they are still by far the cheapest credit available since they are pitched at ordinary mortgage rates.

Richard Thomson

THE TIMES Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page.

If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Your gain or loss
	BUILDING & ROADS	
1	Tarmac	
2	HAT	
3	Taylor Woodrow	
4	Dew (George)	
5	Brownlee	
6	Wimpey (George)	
7	Amec	
8	Blue Circle	
9	BPB Industries	
10	Blockleys	
	FOODS	
11	Tesco	
12	Hillards	
13	Avana	
14	Matthews (Bernard)	
15	Bejam	
16	Utd Biscuits	
17	Rowntree Mac	
18	Baileys of Yorks	
19	Normans	
20	Assoc Dairies	
	INDUSTRIALS S–Z	
21	Trafalgar House	
22	Sears	
23	Simon Eng	
24	Wedgwood	
25	Sketchley	
26	Whatman Reeve	
27	Spirax-Sarco	
28	Vickers	
29	Sidlaw	
30	Sale Tilney	
	PROPERTY	
31	Warner	
32	Bilton (P)	
33	Laing Prop	
34	Centrovincial	
35	Lon Shop Prop	
36	Brixton	
37	Bradford	
38	Evans of Leeds	
39	Lynton	
40	Town Centre	
© Times Newspapers Limited	Your Daily Total	

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £20,000 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Another new peak

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 10. Dealings End, Dec 21. § Contango Day, Dec 24. Settlement Day, Jan 7.
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

THE TIMES Portfolio
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DAILY DIVIDEND	WEEKLY DIVIDEND
£4,000	£20,000
Claims required for +39 points	Claims required for +133 points

BRITISH FUNDS

1984 High	Low	Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int. only yld %	Gross Red. yld %
SHORTS (Under Five Years)						
[illegible]						

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

[illegible]

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

[illegible]

UNDATED

[illegible]

INDEX-LINKED

[illegible]

BREWERIES

1984 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]							

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

[illegible]

BUILDING AND ROADS

[illegible]

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

[illegible]

CINEMAS AND TV

[illegible]

DRAPERY AND STORES

[illegible]

ELECTRICALS

[illegible]

FINANCE AND LAND

[illegible]

FOODS

[illegible]

HOTELS AND CATERERS

[illegible]

INDUSTRIALS A–D

[illegible]

E–K

[illegible]

L–R

[illegible]

S–Z

[illegible]

INSURANCE

[illegible]

LEISURE

[illegible]

MINING

[illegible]

MOTORS AND AIRCRAFT

[illegible]

NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS

[illegible]

OIL

[illegible]

OVERSEAS TRADERS

[illegible]

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT'G

[illegible]

PROPERTY

[illegible]

SHIPPING

[illegible]

SHOES AND LEATHER

[illegible]

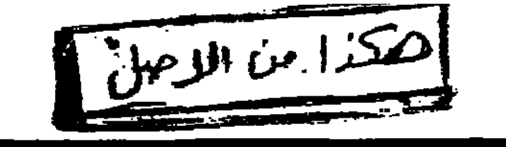
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TENNIS: UNITED STATES DEPEND ON FAVOURABLE DAVIS CUP DRAW

McEnroe must find feet on clay

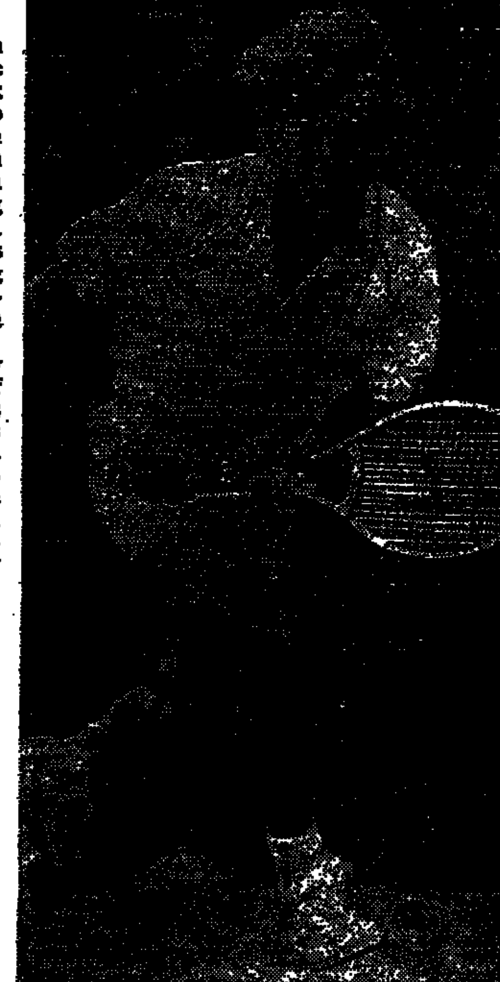
By Rex Bellamy
Tennis Correspondent

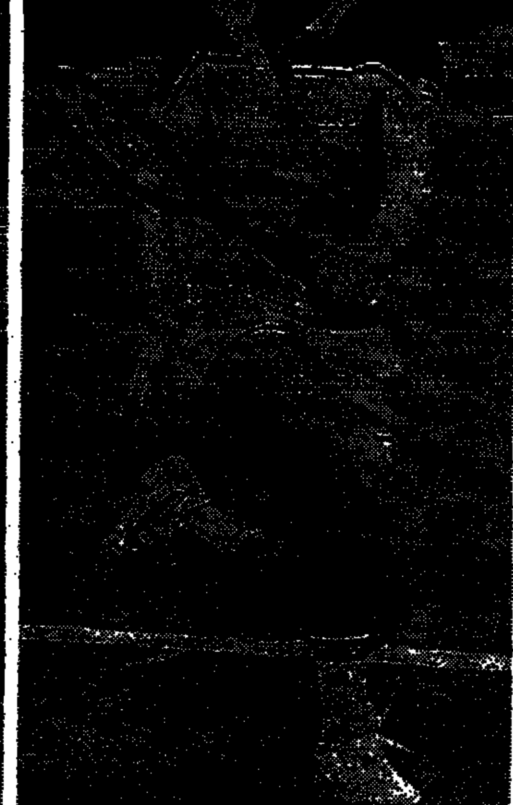
John McEnroe, who has been out of competition since the Stockholm tournament six weeks ago, must somehow jump straight back into form when the United States plays Sweden in the Davis Cup final, on an indoor clay court in Göteborg from tomorrow until Tuesday. He will be hoping that today's draw spares him the daunting task of taking on Mats Wilander, the best of the Swedes, in one of tomorrow's singles.

McEnroe was afflicted by mild tendonitis in the wrist of his racket arm while he was playing in Stockholm. He was then suspended for three weeks and while practising in California aggravated the tendonitis and consequently had to scratch from the Australian championships – in which Wilander retained the men's singles title.

McEnroe is still having treatment and it remains to be seen whether his wrist – and his form – can take the strain in Göteborg, where he will have to play two singles and a doubles. McEnroe has broken even in six matches with the younger Wilander, who is more at ease on clay but has had only a week in which to adjust from Melbourne grass to Göteborg and clay.

The other singles players will be Jimmy Connors and Henrik Sundstrom. The doubles pairings are not yet official, but Stefan Edberg and Anders Jarryd will probably be given the chance to beat McEnroe and Peter Fleming again – as they did on a harder, faster court in the United States championships.





Head to head: Wilander (left) and McEnroe have three wins each

Wilander should beat Connors and may also beat McEnroe. But Sweden would still have to win another match and cannot be confident that Sundstrom or the doubles pair would oblige. On the other hand, Connors, aged 32, is unlikely to be bursting with energy for his reverse singles on Tuesday.

The arena holds almost 13,000 spectators. The Swedes have spent about £19,000 to install a clay court, in the hope that this will improve their chances. France tried the same thing in Grenoble two years ago but the US beat them anyway. Sweden, though, look a more solid team now than France did then.

The final features five of the game's seven most highly ranked players and there are many unpredictable factors. So this could be one of the competition's classic confrontations and could go either way. The last time these nations met was at St Louis in 1982, when McEnroe took six hours and 32 minutes to beat Wilander in a match that clinched a 3-2 win for the US.

This is the first time these teams have met in the final. The US won all five of their ties in earlier rounds, the last time being in Sweden in 1978, when the margin was 3-2. That was the last time Arthur Ashe (their captain) represented the United States.

Bournemouth a casualty

The Lawn Tennis Association announced yesterday that the proposed men's indoor Grand Prix tournament at Bournemouth, from February 25 to March 3, has been cancelled because no sponsor has come forward (Rex Bellamy writes). This was no surprise. The LTA could have backed the event themselves but already invest heavily in supporting the grass court tournaments that precede Wimbledon.

Moreover, the LTA now back a series of satellite (minor) professional tournaments that provide British players of both sexes with more competition than they could hope to get from more distinguished events. The LTA had to exercise discretion in funding tournaments from which overseas players are the chief beneficiaries in every sense.

Promotion for two

Two of the all-England tennis club's senior executives were promoted at the annual meeting in London. Richard Grier becomes the championships director and Tony Hughes financial director.

Kriek fined on the way to victory

Sydney (Reuter) – Johan Kriek collected a $500 fine after a fiery quarter-final victory over his fellow American, Marty Davis in the New South Wales open championship at White City yesterday.

Kriek, the top seed, who eventually won 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, was warned in the first set for an audible obscenity and collected a penalty point in the second set for racket abuse.

Kevin Curren and the local favourite John Fitzgerald will meet in the other semi-final after nail-biting victories. Curren saved four match points en route to his 6-3, 6-7, 7-6 win over Ben Testerman while Fitzgerald needed three tie-breaks to dispose of another American, Tom Gullikson, 7-6, 6-7, 7-6.

The fluctuating struggle between Curren and Testerman ended in the gloom after the American had led 6-5, 40-0 on Curren's service in the final set. Curren then blasted his way out of trouble to force the tie-break, which he eventually won 10-8. "I expected a late match, but not to finish in the dark," the South African said.

Quarter-finals (US unless stated): S Glammalva bt W Scanlon, 7-6, 6-3; J Fitzgerald (Aus) bt T Gullikson, 6-3, 6-7, 7-6; J Kriek bt M Davis, 4-6, 7-5, 6-3; K Curren (SA) bt B Testerman, 6-3, 6-7, 7-6.

DOUBLES: Quarter-finals: P McNamara (Aus)/L Shiras (US) bt C Dowdeswell/J Lloyd (GB), 7-6, 2-6, 6-4.

● Las Vegas (AP) – John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors will meet on January 4 and possibly again the next day in the $1.2 million AT Challenge of Champions featuring seven of the world's top eight players that is worth $200,000 to the winner.

RUGBY UNION

Australians hold out promise of an extravagant finale

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

The Australians have one final opportunity to show Britain what a joyous game rugby can be when they play the Barbarians in Cardiff today, bringing the curtain down on what has been an immensely successful tour. The curtain descends, too, on some distinguished names – Slack, the captain, Ella and Hawker are among those who may not lighten the international stage again.

This will be no fun-run, however. The Barbarians were conscious, when they selected their team, of the need for players who would contest the loose ball and put the Australians under pressure. The prestige of the game in Britain and Ireland has receded steadily during this tour and the Barbarians may see it as their mission – as they did against the 1961 South Africans, unbeaten before their Barbarians game – to restore perspective.

It must be doubted whether, after only two training periods together, they can match the team and individual skills which the touring side possess, but they may be able to frame at least an acceptable response to the toast of running rugby.

These two sides began the Barbican tradition of providing the climax to major tours 36 years ago, when McLean's Wallabies lost 9-6 to a side which scored three tries and was illuminated by the skills of Bleddyn Williams. Times have changed; even the Barbarians are sponsored now, by Wang, the computer company, on this occasion, but their desire to represent what is best in the game remains.

In subsequent meetings the Barbarians won in 1958 (11-6) and 1976 (19-7), the Australians in 1967 when they scored five tries in the 17-11 scoreline. The 1982 game was cancelled because of snow but today's match at the Welsh Nations Stadium seems certain to conclude the tour on an enthralling note.

"We are going to play a more extravagant game", Alan Jones, the Australian coach, said yesterday. Their approach so far has not been ungenerous, producing 45 tries – 12 of them of internationals – so it will be instructive to see them bare their souls today: to see Ella weave his magic on one final occasion, the strength of Gould, the intelligent support of Poidevin, the immense physical presence of Williams and Lawton.

Gareth Davies has taken over the captaincy of the Barbarians after the withdrawal of Deans, so he is well placed to bring out the best of an exciting three-quarter line. There is no doubt, too, that good performances in this match from such as McGaughey and Smith will stand them in good stead with their respective selectors. Why, even Davies himself may be able to indicate that his running skills have not withered in the shadow of a productive boot.

Earlier this season, Davies was at his best for Cardiff against Bristol, weaving like the wind in a cornfield of Bristol defenders. It should be remarked that Ella's particular genius is in the provision of the early ball and instinctive support, rather than as a creator of outrageous breaks. The contest between these two will have an added piquancy in the light of Davies's points win in Cardiff's colours early in the tour.

There is also the element of the unexpected which the Frenchmen, Blanco and Gallion, may provide. But it has been Jones's forte on this tour that he has prepared his teams to take on the opposition where they believe themselves to be strongest. This Australia team is well-equipped to play Barbarians rugby; they will want to do so for the sake of those who will not be wearing the green-and-gold again.

TODAY'S TEAMS AT CARDIFF

Barbarians		Position	Australians	
S Blanco (Biarritz and France)	15	Full back	R G Gould (Queensland)	15
S T Smith (Wasps)	14	Right wing	M J Hawker (New South Wales)	14
R A Ackerman (London Welsh and Wales)	13	Right centre	A G Slack* (Queensland)	13
B J Mullin (Trinity Coll Dublin, and Ireland)	12	Left centre	M P Lynagh (Queensland)	12
R Underwood (Leicester and England)	11	Left wing	D I Campese (ACT)	11
W G Davies* (Cardiff and Wales)	10	Stand off	M G Ella (New South Wales)	10
J Gallion (Toulon and France)	9	Scrum half	P A Cox (New South Wales)	9
P A Orr (Old Wesley and Ireland)	1	Prop	S Pilecki (Queensland)	1
M J Watkins (Newport and Wales)	2	Hooker	T A Lawton (Brisbane)	2
I G Milne (Harlequins and Scotland)	3	Prop	A J McIntyre (Queensland)	3
S K Mcgaughey (Hawick and Scotland)	6	Flanker	S P Poidevin (New South Wales)	6
D G Lenihan (Cork Constitution and Ireland)	4	Lock	S A Williams (New South Wales)	4
R L Norster (Cardiff and Wales)	5	Lock	S A G Cutler (New South Wales)	5
G W Rees (Nottingham and England)	7	Flanker	C Roche (Queensland)	7
W A Anderson (Dungannon and Ireland)	8	No 8	R J Reynolds (New South Wales)	8

*Captain

Referee: R Hourquet (France)

REPLACEMENTS: 16 M A Wyatt (Swansea and Wales), 17 G H Davies (Wasps and England), 18 R Brady (Queen's Univ, Belfast), 19 J Whitefoot (Cardiff and Wales), 20 W J James (Aberavon and Wales), 21 J Jeffrey (Kelso and Scotland).

REPLACEMENTS: 16 E E Rodriguez (New South Wales), 17 W A Campbell (Queensland), 18 S N Tuynman (New South Wales), 19 N C Farr-Jones (New South Wales), 20 J W Black (New South Wales), 21 P C Grigg (Queensland).

Scots will do well to hold on

By Ian McLauchlan

For the second week in succession Murrayfield plays host to a team from the southern hemisphere as today Scotland's schoolboys face New Zealand Schools. On Wednesday the New Zealanders ran in eight tries on their way to a 40-3 win against a Scottish schoolboys' district XV and today the senior side will have their work cut out to hold their visitors. The New Zealanders showed great maturity in the district game with a powerful forward display supported by some fast, inventive back play.

In the senior ranks the focus will be on the two district championship games. South, outright winners last year, play Edinburgh at Netherdale, Galashiels. There are many fascinating personal duels in prospect as Scotland's wingers of last week, Baird and Steven, are in direct opposition, as are the centres, Robertson and Kennedy. It is hoped that the wingers show a little more enterprise today as Selkirk's explosive winger, Tukalo, is also playing.

Up front the Borderers seem to have the edge in all departments but it will be particularly interesting to watch Turnbull and Hogarth in the South's back row. Both are very fast all-action players, the latter being the best flanker I have seen in Scotland this season.

In the other match, Glasgow travel to Gateshead to face the Anglo-Scots. Of particular interest will be the performance of the B players Sole and Cunningham in the Anglos' front row and their full back, Hastings. Glasgow, with McGuinness and Beattie returning from international duty, are hoping that they can couple the fire and fury displayed against Australia with a little more poise and scoring sharpness.

Fletcher's first match

England's selectors, who plan to announce the side to play Romania after the South and South-West have played the Romanians on New Year's Day, visit such diverse venues as Gosforth (v Nottinham), Twickenham (Harli quins v Bath) and Gloucester (v Coventry) today (David Hands writes).

The divisional side, which is not expected to show many changes from that which drew with the Australians, should be known next weekend and Bath will have several contenders. They play a Harliquins side who give a debut to Fletcher, the former England School captain and Waterloo stand-off half.

Halliday appears in the centre for Bath, who have Palmer at stand-of half at the expense of Horton. Another potential England back, Andrew, who played such a fine game for Cambridge in the University match, appears for Middlesborough against Waterloo.

Northampton are able to restore Pearce, the England prop, against Wasps after a six-week absence but Leicester have a doubt about Hare for the third-round cup rehearsal against Bristol. The full back will have a fitness check on a back strain before a game in which Leicester are already without five internationals.

Where the minority score over the rest

SIDELINES
Gordon Allan

"Minority sports" is a phrase much bandied about and it makes me uneasy. It begs a number of questions. Are they sports played by a minority? Watched by a minority? Sports in which no majority could possibly take an interest? Or have the media, with no warrant in fact, merely labelled certain sports "minority" as an excuse for ignoring them so that they can give yet more coverage to sports that already receive too much?

I have no intention of trying to answer these questions. You can answer them yourselves according to your own prejudices and opinions. But I would suggest that "minority" is a dubious word anyway and, like "the public interest", a concept too sweeping to be trusted.

If you take 10,000 people and find that 4,999 play a particular sport, does that make it a "minority sport"? Arithmetically, yes. The other 5,001 must be superior persons, if you look at the matter from the standpoint of those woolly thinkers who believe in such things as "minorities" and "the public interest". But I would say that 4,999 is still a number large enough to justify calling any sport that they all play not "minority" but popular.

These are riddles. I prefer hunches and feelings, and one of them is that you are more likely to find the love of sport in its purest form among "minority sports" than among the rest.

Not embraced by the bitch-goddess

"Minority sports" have not had millions of mostly superfluous words written about them. They have not embraced the bitch-goddess, television. They may secretly hanker after an "image" but know they will never get one – and should be grateful for being spared it.

For 13 years I have been absorbed in a "minority sport" – bowls. There is, of course, nothing "minority" about it. Hundreds of thousands of people of all ages play it all over the world. It is a true majority sport. But the "minority" label continues to be hung on it.

Not much is written about bowls, and although it has dallied with the bitch-goddess, you could hardly say they have fallen in love. There is plenty of optimistic talk about it growing and prospering on television, as snooker has done, but I doubt whether that will happen. The nature and time-scale of the game are against such exposure. It will probably have to rest content with what it has.

In one way I am sorry. I would like to see its competitiveness, artistry and charm given broader recognition and the misconceptions about it removed.

(Other "minority sports" doubtless wish the same for themselves. But in another way I am glad. It remains an unspoilt game, played by a huge "minority."

Phillips record

The Hereford forward Stewart Phillips will set a new club record of 95 consecutive League appearances when he leads the fourth division side's attack against Halifax today.

RUGBY LEAGUE

GB record at stake in France

By Keith Macklin

Great Britain teams figure in two internationals being played within 24 hours in France this weekend. Today at Aussillon. Their colts play France colts, and tomorrow at Albi, the Under-21 side meet France Under-21, who will be trying to win for the first time at this level, which have replaced the former Under-24 games.

Although Great Britain won the recent game at Castleford 24-8, France are bound to lift their game before their own crowd.

It is as will for Great Britain that under the successful new international agreement, an English referee, Ronnie Campbell, will be in charge. Past international matches between the countries have swung France's way often through less than impartial handling by home referees.

Great Britain should win both matches if the new coach, Maurice Bamford instructs his charges to keep the ball moving to the backs and wings rather than being drawn into a forward battle.

The outstanding championship match is at Craven Park, where Hull Kingston Rovers can overhaul St Helens, who have no game, by beating another championship-challenging team, Oldham. Widnes will be without Sorenson, who is suspended, for the home game against the much improved Hunslet.

HOCKEY

Bronze for Britain takes 10 minutes

From Sydney Friskin
Karachi

Great Britain 3
Netherlands 1

Great Britain, after their success at the Olympic Games in Los Angeles, won their second bronze medal by defeating Netherlands decisively in the Champions Trophy tournament here yesterday.

This is the third successive victory for Britain over the Dutch. They beat them 4-3 in a group match at Los Angeles and 3-2 in a quadrangular tournament at Willesden in October. Yesterday's win, despite the improvement by the Dutch, was not unexpected.

The basic facts of this extraordinary match are best told by Bernie Cotton, the team manager, who was captain of the British team that won that bronze medal af the first Champions Trophy tournament in 1978 at Lahore. "We took the game by the scruff of the neck and built a comfortable lead but, as usually happens, we ran into problems in the second half.

"I knew that they would come at us, hit us and shout at the umpires, and they did just that. In the end the injury to Danny Bhaura and the sending off of Sam Martin had a sobering effect. I brought the 1978 bronze medal with me to show the lads what we were playing for."

Horacio Servetto, the Argentine umpire, offered his own philosophy: "the Dutch started the match 10 minutes late." In that time Britain established a 3-0 lead, the onslaught starting with goal in the third minute by Kerly from a pass by Bhaura. Two minutes later Cattrall released a fierce shot from a short corner, bringing about a scramble from which the ball came back to Cattrall from Leman. Cattrall finished the job

The tottering Dutch defence came to grief again in the tenth minute when Duthie ran through, with Bhaura in close support, to score the third goal. Except for one threatening run by Diepeveen who was checked by Taylor, nothing was seen of the Dutch as an attacking force in the first half. In the second they became more positive and were encouraged after Van Grimbergen reduced the lead in the 47th minute but the Britrish defence gave little away.

GREAT BRITAIN: I Taylor; R Cattrall, S Martin, J Potter, D Faulkner, W McConnell, K Bhaura (sub: R Clift), R Leman, (sub: J Shaw), S Kerly, N Hughes, J Duthie.

NETHERLANDS: L Bos; R Klaasen, K Kossen, B Vanstekelenburg, H J Koyman, R Steens, A Den Hartog, C J Diepeveen, R Vokers (sub: E Parleuliet), R J Heyn, M Van Grimbergen.

UMPIRES: D Meredith (Australia) and J Benito (Spain).

Australia retained the trophy by defeating Pakistan 2-0 in the final match of the day before a crowd of about 25,000.

FINAL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Australia	5	4	1	0	12	6	9
Pakistan	5	3	1	1	14	8	7
Great Britain	5	2	2	1	13	11	6
Netherlands	5	2	1	2	9	8	5
New Zealand	5	0	2	3	8	15	2
Spain	5	0	1	4	7	15	1

BOBSLEIGHING

Phipps can defy handicap

From Chris Moore, Igls

Nick Phipps is on the brink of completing a notable double at the British championship, sponsored by Allied Steel, in Igls this weekend by adding the four-man title to the two-man event he won in Winterburg last Sunday. But the 32-year-old Londoner is faced with the prospect of being without his brakeman, Alan Cearns, for today's first two laufs on the 1976 Olympic track near Innsbruck.

Cearns, a former schoolboy international sprinter missed yesterday's final two practice runs after suffering a groin strain on Thursday. He will undergo a fitness test this morning, but is given a less than even chance of being able to race.

Phipps, who has been using Martin Dews as a replacement for his regular crewman Paddy Bredin all week, had to draft in the Swiss bobber, Danial Hitz, to make up his crew yesterday. However, Bredin flew to Australia from Heathrow to join the team last night. Meanwhile, the defending champion, John Deere was half a second slower than Phipps on his final practice run yesterday.

The final build-up was marred by the first serious accident of the week, with the young Swiss driver, Fritz Ludi, being flown by helicopter to hospital in Innsbruck after crashing and suffering severe facial injuries.

SWIMMING

Gross set to be the star

By Athole Still

The winter short course season opens with its most important match when the Europa Cup competition takes place in Bergen this weekend. Eighteen countries will take part in the men's events and 17 in the women's. With the Soviet Union and East Germany both fielding squads close to full strength, they should prove invincible in their respective sections, as they have always done in the past.

British teams have never distinguished themselves in this event, having rarely finished in the top three, and their task this year is more daunting than in the past, with nine Olympians currently studying in North America and several others having confirmed their retirement from competition.

The star of the meeting should certainly be Michael Gross, the West German, who has set new world records over both butterfly distances and also improved upon Vladimir Salnikov's 400m freestyle record.

WEEKEND FOOTBALL AND OTHER FIXTURES

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated.

First division

Arsenal v West Bromwich
Aston Villa v Liverpool
Chelsea v Stoke City
Coventry City v Southampton
Everton v Nottingham Forest
Ipswich Town v Sunderland
Leicester City v Luton Town
Manchester United v QPR
Watford v Tottenham
West Ham United v Sheffield W

Second division

Barnsley v Oxford United
Cardiff City v Wimbledon
Charlton v Manchester City
Grimsby Town v Crystal Palace
Leeds United v Birmingham City
Oldham Athletic v Carlisle United
Portsmouth v Huddersfield Town
Sheffield United v Brighton
Wolverhampton v Blackburn

Third division

Bolton Wanderers v Millwall
Bournemouth v Bristol City
Bristol Rovers v Newport County
Burnley v Swansea City
Derby County v Orient
Hull City v Walsall
Lincoln City v Gillingham
Plymouth Argyle v Cambridge U
Preston North End v Brentford
Rotherham United v York City

Fourth division

Crewe Alexandra v Chesterfield
Exeter City v Peterborough
Hartlepool United v Northampton
Hereford United v Halifax Town
Mansfield Town v Scunthorpe
Port Vale v Darlington
Rochdale v Southend United
Swindon Town v Colchester
Torquay United v Blackpool
Tranmere v Aldershot (3.15)
Wrexham v Bury

Scottish premier division

Aberdeen v Dundee
Dundee United v Hearts
Hibernian v Celtic
Morton v Dumbarton
Rangers v St Mirren

Scottish first division

Ayr United v East Fife
Brechin City v Kilmarnock
Falkirk v Partick Thistle
Hamilton v Clydebank
Meadowbank v Clyde
Motherwell v Forfar Athletic
St Johnstone v Airdrieonians

Scottish second division

Arbroath v Berwick
Cowdenbeath v Alloa Athletic
East Stirling v Raith Rovers
Queen of South v Dunfermline
Stenhousemuir v Montrose
Stirling Albion v Queen's Park
Stranraer v Albion Rovers

Scottish Cup
First round replay

Gala Fairydean v Stranraer (1.30)

GOLA LEAGUE: Barrow v Nuneaton; Bath v Telford; Dartford v Barnet; Enfield v Worcester; Frickley v Wealdstone; Gateshead v Altrincham; Kidderminster v Maidstone; Northwich v Dagenham; Runcorn v Scarborough.

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Bangor City v Chorley; Buxton v Horwich; Goole v Matlock; Hyde v Marine; Workington v Oswestry.

FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Luton v Arsenal (2.0); Swansea v Bristol Rovers.

IRISH LEAGUE: Ards v Bangor; Ballymena v Glenavon; Carrick v Glentoran; Cliftonville v Distillery; Linfield v Coleraine (3.0); Newry v Larne; Portadown v Crusaders.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Dulwich Hamlet v Worthing; Epsom and Ewell v Tooting and Mitcham; Harrow Borough v Leytonstone/Ilford; Walthamstow v Hitchin; Wycombe v Bognor Regis. First division: Basildon v St Albans; Boreham Wood v Metropolitan Police; Chesham v Leatherhead; Clapton v Lewes; Hornchurch v Maidenhead United; Tilbury v Hertford; Walton and Hersham v Kingstonian; Wembley v Oxford City. Second division north: Barton v Chalfont St Peter; Berkhamsted v Marlow; Cheshunt v Tring; Hackwell Heath v Finchley; Harefield v Epping; Hemel Hempstead v Haringey; Stevenage v Royston; [illegible]

WESTERN LEAGUE: Premier division: Barnstaple v Weston-Super-Mare; Bristol City v Bideford; Chard v Minehead; Chippenham v Saltmarsh; Clandown v Clevedon; Devizes v Melksham; Mangotsfield v Taunton; Paulton v Dawlish; Shepton Mallet v Plymouth Argyle Reserves.

ESSEX SENIOR TROPHY: Third round: East Ham v Saffron Walden (2.0); Heybridge Swifts v Witham; Leyton-Wingate v Grays; Woodford v Stansted.

HERTS SENIOR TROPHY: Second round (2.0): BROB Barnet v Sandridge Rovers (3.0); London Colney v Sun Sports; Oxhey Jets v Pirton; Potters Bar Crusaders v Leavesden Hospital; St Margaretsbury v Mowlem Sports; Sawbridgeworth v BAC Stevenage; Selby v Rolls Royce Engines; Welwyn Garden United v Welwyn Garden City.

KENT SENIOR TROPHY: Second round (2.00): Corinthian v Penhill Standard; Danson v Tunbridge Wells; Kent Police v Brent.

SURREY SENIOR CUP: Fifth qualifying round: Ash v Banstead (2.0); Egham v Molesey; Farleigh v Dorking (2.0); Woking v Malden Vale.

SUSSEX SENIOR CUP: Third round (2.15): [illegible]

[illegible]

RUGBY UNION

TOUR MATCH

Barbarians v Australia (at Cardiff) (2.15)

REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES

Anglo Scots v North & Midlands (at Gosforth County Grounds) (2.15)
South of Scotland v Edinburgh (at Netherdale) (2.15)

CLUB MATCHES

Bedford v Moseley
Birkenhead Park v London Scottish
Bristol v Leicester
Broughton Park v Halifax (2.30)
Edinburgh Acads v Trinity Acads (2.15)
Gloucester v Coventry
Gosforth v Nottingham (2.15)
Harlequins v Bath (at Twickenham)
Harrogate v Hartlepool Rovers (2.0)
Hawick v Boroughmuir (2.15)
Heriot's F.P. v Glasgow Acads (2.15)
Kelso v Selkirk (2.15)
Langholm v Gala (2.30)
Liverpool v Manchester (2.30)
London Irish v London Welsh (2.15)
Metro Police v Exeter (2.30)
Morley v Wilmslow (2.30)
Northampton v Wasps
Northern v Melrose (2.15)
Nuneaton v New Brighton (2.30
Richmond v Blackheath (2.15)
Rosslyn Park v Plymouth Albion
Roundhay v Sheffield (2.15)
Sale v Headingley (2.45)
Saracens v Rugby (2.30)
South Wales Police v Glamorgan Wdrs (2.30)
Vale of Lune v Fylde (2.15)
Waterloo v Middlesbrough (2.30)
Watsonians v Ayr (2.15)
West Hartlepool v Otley (2.15).

SOUTHERN MERIT TABLE: Abbey v Henley; Maidenhead v Marlow.

HERTS MERIT TABLE: Bacavians v Bishop's Stortford; Harpenden v Old Albanians.

SEVEN COUNTIES MERIT TABLE: Streatham-Croydon v Sidcup.

TRUMAN MERIT TABLE: Old Brentwoods v Old Bealonians; Old Dunstonians v Old Elthamians; Old Haberdashers v Old Millhillians; Old Pelhamians v Old Johnians; Old Reigatians v Old Mid-Whitgiftians.

HOCKEY

LONDON LEAGUE (2.15): Premier division: Beckenham v Blackheath. League: Bromley v Dulwich; Cheam v Maidenhead; Mid-Surrey v Tulse Hill; Old Kingstonians v Hawks; Richmond v Spencer; Southgate v Purley; Surbiton v Teddington; Wimbledon v Hounslow.

EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Blueharts v Westcliff; Ford v Cambridge City; Old Loughtonians v Norfolk Wanderers.

SOUTH LEAGUE: Premier division: Bognor v Bournemouth; East Grinstead v Essex; Walton v Oxford Hawks

MIDDLESEX/BERKS, BUCKS & OXON: Bracknell v Polytechnic; Gerrards Cross v City of Oxford.

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Slough v RAF.

CLUB MATCHES: Amersham v Harrow; Chichester v Worthing.

WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT: Home Countries Indoor (at Meadowbank Stadium, Edingburgh, 2.30).

ICE HOCKEY

HEINEKEN BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Cleveland Bombers v Whitley Warriors (6.30); Nottingham Panthers v Ayr Bruins (6.30); Southampton Vikings v Fife Flyers (Oxford, 5.15). First division: Blackpool Seagulls v Peterborough Pirates (7.0).

LACROSSE

NORTH OF ENGLAND LEAGUE: First division: Cheadle v Sheffield; Mellor v Timperley; Old Waconians v Old Stopfordians; Sale v Heaton Mersey; South Manchester and Wythenshawe v Sheffield University; Stockport v Old Hulmeians.

SOUTH OF ENGLAND LEAGUE: First division: Buckhurst Hill v Hampstead; Calthorpe v Beckenham; Chipstead v Kenton; Purley v Hillcroft.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: (Men) First division: Kingcraft Kingston v FSO Cars Warrington (8.0); Hemel and Watford Royals v Homespare Bolton (8.0); Crystal Palace Supersonics v Screen Stars Telford (8.0); Sperrings Solent Stars v John Carr Doncaster (8.0); Cottrills Manchester Giants v Walkers Crisps Leicester (7.30); Davenports Birmingham Bullets v Bracknell Pirates (8.0). Second division: John Eld Derby v Camden (8.0); ANC Stoke v Telecom Colchester (8.0). (Women) First [illegible]

HANDBALL

BRITISH LEAGUE: (Men): Ashford Tanners v Robert Jenkins (Stour Centre, 2.40).

ENGLISH NATIONAL LEAGUE: (Women): Salford Ladies v Robert Jenkins (Pendlebury 5.50).

OTHER SPORT

RACKETS: Public Schools Singles (Queen's Club, Kensington).

REAL TENNIS: Masters Singles Open (Oxford).

SNOOKER: Hofmeister World Doubles (Northampton).

[illegible]

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

[illegible]

RUGBY UNION

[illegible]

RUGBY LEAGUE

[illegible]

HOCKEY

[illegible]

ICE HOCKEY

[illegible]

BASKETBALL

[illegible]

OTHER SPORT

[illegible]

FOOTBALL: TOTTENHAM WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RELAX AGAINST REAL MADRID

English clubs on course to dominate Europe

By Stuart Jones Football Correspondent

England, who threatened to collect all three Continental trophies in 1984, yesterday drew a step closer to becoming the dominant force in Europe in 1985. The four first division clubs, the largest contingent to represent a nation in the quarter-finals, have all avoided colliding with those considered to be their strongest rivals in the next round in March.

Liverpool will face Juventus in the Super Cup final, which is to be staged in Turin on January 16. They may yet again meet over two legs later in the European Cup but Liverpool, the holders, were particularly relieved to have stayed clear of them now because Dalglish is suspended for the next three games.

If the Italian defence is formidable, Austria Vienna's is at least accomplished. It includes the national sweeper and goalkeeper. The elegant Hungarian, Nyilasi, is another influential member of a side that lost to Tottenham Hotspur in last season's UEFA Cup quarter-final but led their League before going indoors to keep fit during the winter hibernation.

Liverpool will be visiting Austria for the first time on March 6, but their hosts are likely to be playing on unfamiliar ground as well. Since their own arena has a capacity of only 10,000, they are expected to hold the match in the nearby Hanappi stadium, the adopted home of Rapid, which is more than twice as spacious.

Everton's opponents in the Cup Winners' Cup are the least known and the least experienced of all the 24 survivors. Fortuna Sittard, currently in the middle of the Dutch table, qualified for the competition only because Feyenoord, who beat them in the cup final, finished the season also as champions.

Zurich (Reuter) – The Super Cup match between Liverpool, the holders of the European Cup, and Juventus, the holders of the Cup Winners' Cup, will take place in Turin on January 16. UEFA said here that only one match will be played.

As a bonus, two of Everton's leading challengers were drawn against each other. Although Bayern Munich, the West German leaders, have the disadvantage of playing the first leg at home, they shoud prove too strong for Roma, last seasons's European Cup finalists and the conquerors of Wrexham in the last round.

Tottenham, the holders of the UEFA Cup, and Manchester United avoided both an unfortunate domestic argument and a fearsome fixture against Internazionale of Milan. Their ties may appear to be the most difficult of the four, but at least the English representatives were earlier this season given a glimpse of the future.

Tottenham, involved in the most glamorous tie of the round, met Real Madrid in the Bernabeu stadium last September in a testimonial game. They lost 1-0. Without the suspended Roberts in the first leg, they can scarcely relax whatever their lead. Real, lying second in the Spanish League behind Barcelona, have twice recovered from 3-0 deficits in the UEFA Cup.

United will return to Hungary six months after knocking out Raba Vasas in the first round. Goals are again the most predictable feature of their tie against the League leaders. Under Ferenc Kovacs, Videoton have become an equally adventurous side, beating Partizan Belgrade 5-0 at home and Paris St Germain 4-2 away.

Quarter-final draws

European Cup
Austria Vienna v Liverpool
Bordeaux v Dnepropetrovsk
Göteborg v Panathinaikos
Juventus v Sparta Prague

Cup Winners' Cup
Bayern Munich v Roma
Dynamo Dresden v Rapid Vienna
Everton v Fortuna Sittard
Larissa v Dynamo Moscow

UEFA Cup
Internazionale v Cologne
Manchester United v Videoton
Tottenham Hotspur v Real Madrid
Zeljeznicar v Dynamo Minsk

First leg matches on March 6, second leg on March 20.

Walsh may tilt odds in Liverpool's favour

By Clive White

The team news emanating from Anfield yesterday was the most significant since Ian Rush's return from injury was announced in October. Joe Fagan, the Liverpool manager, has decided that Paul Walsh is fit enough for action and has named him as substitute against Aston Villa at Villa Park today.

With odds already at a mean 4-1 against ninth-placed Liverpool retaining their League title, one could visualize bookmakers scurrying to shorten the odds still further in anticipation of a sensational return by Walsh, out for 11 games following a cartilage operation. The prospect of a Walsh-Rush striker force cruelly teased Liverpool throughout the first two months of Rush's absence and then two months of Walsh's. Soon it will be a reality that could rocket Liverpool to the top of the world, or at least England and the rest of Europe, in a fraction of the time it took them to fall to earth.

There was something mightily encouraging about the manner of their defeat by Independiente in the world club championship last Sunday. As a unit – even without the incomparable Lawrenson – they looked as solid as they have done all season. In attack they were blunted by an exceptionally alert defence, Rush being stil lin need of some honing. But the future can now be tackled with gusto for the first time since Souness's heartbreaking departure to Italy.

Today they will again be without Lawrenson against fellow European Cup winners in considerably more trouble than they have been themselves. The decision of Graham Turner, Villa's manager, to drop their most gifted young player, Cowans, is either a brave or foolhardy one.

A victory for Liverpool is still likely to leave them a little short of the leaders, since the top five are all contemplating a three-point bonus. The tasks of Tottenham Hotspur and Arsenal, though, are far from a formality. Even at home, Arsenal, in their present form, will find it difficult to outbalte West Bromwich Albion team quietly confident that they could become the seventh side to lead the table by Christmas. The victory over lowly Watford last week should not be underestimated. It was their fifth win in six games. Whitehead replaces the suspended Hunt and for Arsenal, Caton is back for the injured O'Leary. Nicholas can get no nearer than substitute.

Hoddle is another celebrity who will be disappointed to be missing the fun at Vicarage Road with a thigh injury, a legacy from his mugging in Prague in midweek. He was seeing a plastic surgeon yesterday about the facial scar. Mabbutt deputizes in what is a match between the first division's leading goalscorers. Graham Taylor, the Watford manager, is unsure of his line-up.

Ron Atkinson, the manager of Manchester United, has also had to think twice about his team to play Queen's Park Rangers and has typically gone for attack by choosing Olsen instead of Muhren, who scored the winner against Dundee United during the week. Atkinson remarked: "Muhren is unlucky to be out, in fact he's always unlucky to be out."

Wright waits

Mark Wright, the England centre half, has had his Southampton return delayed by the weather. Wright, who has not played since a dressing-room incident with his manager, Lawrie McMenemy, on November 20, was to turn out for the second team against Watford Reserves today, but the match has been postponed.

Scots seek remedy for hangovers

By Hugh Taylor

The despondent managers of Celtic and Dundee United are faced with two of the most difficult tasks of the day as they try to rekindle enthusiasm in players who have just suffered severe psychological setbacks.

As Celtic travel to Edinburgh to meet the stumbling Hibernian, David Hay concedes that inside a few days a team which scored 17 goals in three games has been reduced to perhaps the most worried side in the land. "But Celtic have always been noted for their resilience and now more than ever before we must all show the fighting spirit which made us not so long ago the best team in Europe", he said.

Hay feels the return of Johnston, ineligible for the European Cup Winners' Cup second leg replay with Rapid Vienna at Old Trafford, which ended in such disaster, will restore the cohesion which was so sadly lacking on Wednesday.

Defeat for Celtic would almost certainly see the end of their challenge to Aberdeen for the title, but no one in Scotland believes the Parkhead club can lose three matches in a row and Hibernian, in a parlous league position, are certain to be without at least two key men.

Dundee United also have a difficult match, against Heart of Midlothian at Tannadice, and although they have nothing like the worries of Celtic, who fear lengthy suspension in Europe, Jim McLean, the manager, is still angered by their UEFA Cup defeat at the hands of Manchester United.

United will be without their international forward, Sturrock, who has a broken bone in his hand.

Almost weekly, Aberdeen's hopes of retaining the premier division title become rosier as the newer players, such as McDougall and Stark, continue to improve. They should consolidate their powerful position at the top with a home win over Dundee.

Rangers will have to improve on recent form to beat St Mirren at Ibrox, and a draw can be expected at Greenock, where two struggling clubs, Morton and Dumbarton, meet.

Robertson and Reilly face charge

George Reilly, the Watford forward, and Alistair Robertson, the West Bromwich Albion defender, have been charged by the Football Association with bringing the game into disrepute. They were sent off in the players' tunnel at the Hawthorns last Saturday after an alleged flare-up, but neither will face an automatic suspension.

"They have the chance to ask for personal hearings, and it is unlikely they will be dealt with before Christmas", an FA spokesman said. Under FA rules the players can be warned, fined or suspended – or a combination of all three.

● Les Chappell, Swansea City's caretaker-manager since Colin Appleton was dismissed last week, was himself removed yesterday. Chappell expressed disappointment that he had not been considered for the manager's job, now on offer to John Bond.

● Referees may soon have pre-match talks with teams in an attempt to bridge the gap between players and officials. They will also be encouraged to visit clubs at their training grounds and talk with staff. These are two possibilities to arise from the formation of a new League body, covering officials, players and managers. The body, the Football League Liaison Panel was launched at a meeting in London.

● Bill Kellock, given a free transfer by Southend United after being sent-off against Tranmere Rovers on December 1, has been offered a contract by Port Vale until the end of the season.

● Len Walker, dismissed as manager of Aldershot last month, is preparing a writ against the club, alleging breach of contract.

With best boot forward

Valletta (Reuter) – Franz Beckenbauer, the manager of West Germany believes that Karl-Heinz Rummenigge can be the match-winner in tomorrow's World Cup European group two qualifying tie against Malta here. "Karl-Heinz Rummenigge is the best player in the world at the moment." Beckenbauer said. "No one can mark him out of a game for 90 minutes".

MALTA (from): R Mifsud, C Sciberras, J Holland, J J Aquilina, A Azzopardi, M Woods, G Xuereb, A Zopardi, E Farrugia, R Vella, C Busittil, R Xuereb, L Farrugia, J Gatt, M Degiorgio and C Muscat.

WEST GERMANY: H Schumacher; D Jakobs, K-H Förster, M Herget, A Brehme, U Rahn, L Matthaeus, H-P Briegel, K-H Rumenigge, R Voller, K Allofs.

● RIO DE JANEIRO (Reuter) – Brazil are willing to play an international in Saudi Arabia in exchange for the early release of Tele Santana, their coach, from Al-Ahli. Brazil would like Santana to take over his national job next month, six months before Brazil's World Cup qualifying matches against Bolivial and Paraguay.

Barnsley's rise can be traced to the Leeds influence

Scrooge-like defence is key to success

Against all the odds, the unpretentious Barnsley club from south Yorkshire have climbed into the top three of the second division, and if they hold that position they will gain promotion to the first division for the first time in their 97-year history.

Before that start of the season it was expected that Barnsley would be among the teams at the wrong end of the table, and an uncertain beginning did nothing to dispel that view. But since then they have got their act together and Saturday's 3-3 draw at Wimbledon was their fifteenth league match without deafeat.

The rise of Barnsley is mainly because of a defence which is as misliy as Scrooge. Their League record of 11 goals against in 18 games is the best in all four divisions and before Saturday they had conceded just two away from home. Wimbledon found a few chinks in their armour but Barnsley showed that they could score goals as well as stop them by recovering from a 2-0 deficit at half-time. However, this afternoon's home match against the League leaders, Oxford, will be a sterner test of their ability.

Barnsley's soundness in defence is to be expected when you consider that their manager is Bobby Collins, a creative and fiercely competitive former Scottish international inside whose clubs included Celtic, Everton and Leeds United. It was while at Leeds, when nearing the end of his career, that he came under Don Revie's influence. Revie built his successful Leeds side from defence and was a great believer in application and organization. He used the experience of Collins to organize things on the pitch and Collins responded by getting maximum effort from the younger players around him.

Revie's influence can be seen in the Banrsley team, who are similar in style to the Leeds side who won promotion to the first division 20 years ago, and Collins continues the link between Barnsley and Leeds; Norman Hunter and Allan Clarke were the two previous Barnsley managers.

In the past week Collins has taken steps to strengthen an attack which has averaged little more than a goal a game, paying a total of £40,000 for Rodger Wylde from Sunderland and Ron Futcher from the Dutch club, Breda. They are expected to combine with David Geddis, an FA Cup winner with Ipswich in 1978, to form a formidable forward line.

Although Barnsley are scaling new peaks, all is not well at Oakwell. The club are losing about £3,500 a week and the effect of the miners' strike has kept attendances down.

Notts County, Carlisle United and Luton have all reached the first division despite limited financial resources, and with little to choose between most of the teams in the second division there is no reason why Barnsley cannot emulate them. It would be a fine achievement by Collins and a welcome change for a club who have spent all their lives in the lower divisions and whose only major honour was the FA Cup in 1912.

Vince Wright

SHOW JUMPING



In their stride: Hugo Simon and Lucky on the way to third place (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

Agile Smith at the double

By Jenny MacArthur

Harvey Smith gave an appreciative crowd an impressive show of agility when he won the Cognac Courvoisier Two-Horse Stakes at the Olympia show jumping championships yesterday. The competition took the form of a relay in which each competitor rode two horses. After completing the course the rider changed over to his second horse and jumped the course again.

Smith partnered Sanyo Candnica and the nine-year-old Cordoba, whom he bought in West Germany only two weeks ago. Wasting no time in the change-over he finished the two rounds more than a second ahead of the runner-up. Nelson Pessoa, of Brazil, who first rode Moët and Chandon's Judy and then Wilfride. Geoff Billington, from Cheshire, took third place riding Brinklo and JR IV.

Nick Skelton gained the first of doubtless many wins to come at this show when he took the Cognac Courvoisier Fault and Out class riding Everest Radius. Skelton was the only rider out of 34 to gain 24 points – the maximum number possible. Michael Whitaker reached 23 on his good speed horse, Colourway, to take second place. Hugo Simon of Austria, was third, one point behind, on Lucky.

Whitaker had a heartening start to the five-day show when he won Thursday night's opening class, the Modern Alarm Turkey Stakes, on Owen Gregory. The 16-year-old horse was only brought to the show at the last moment to replace Whitaker's former top ride, Disney Way, who died during an operation on a splint last month. It was a much needed boost for Whitaker, who is also without his top Olympic horse, Amanda. She is recovering from an operation and cannot be ridden until March.

Whitaker was the second to go in a 17-horse jump-off and because of his early draw he was sure his time of 31.91sec was "bound to be beat".

But Malcolm Pyrah, on Towerlands Anglezarke, and Simon, on The Freak, the two who looked the most threatening, both failed to match Whitaker's fast time and filled second and third place respectively.

RESULTS: British Courvoisier Two-Horse Stakes: 1 Cordoba and Sanyo Cadnica (H Smith) 67.39sec; 2 Judy and Wilfride (N Pessoa, Br), 68.69; 3 JR IV and Brinklow (G Billington), 70.23. Cognac Courvoisier Fault and Out: 1 Everest Radius (N Skelton) 24pts in 49.09sec; 2 Colourway (M Whitaker), 23pts in 48.18sec; 3 Lucky (H Simon, Austria), 22pts in 48.76sec. The Vauxhall Opel Young Showjumper Award: 1 Moët and Chandon Carnival (Z Bates), 0 in 32.55sec; 2 The Chairman (M Wilson) 0 in 32.78; 3 Summerfield Derry (J Wemnam) 0 in 32.92. Modern Alarms Turkey Stakes: 1 Owen Gregory (M Whitaker), 0 in 31.91; 2 Towerlands Anglezarke (M Pyrah), 0 in 32.03; 3 The Freak (H Simon), 0 in 32.19.

● Lucinda Green, the three-day event world chanpion, was nominated to be a member of the Fédération Equestre Internationale three-day event committee at the general assembly of the FEI which took place in Berne this week.

SQUASH RACKETS

Left-handed players go for quick kill

By Colin McQuillan

Geoff Williams and Martine Le Moignan introduced an appropriate high-speed aspect to their domination of the British championships, sponsored by the British Rail InterCity division, at Abbeydale Park, Sheffield, adding their left-handed bias to the gathering momentum of a new generation of domestic talent, while winning their respective finals.

Williams defeated the unseeded Bryan Beeson 9-3, 9-1, 9-1 in 35 minutes. Mis Le Moignan left the former champion, Alison Cumings, struggling tearfully in the wreckage of her unsuccessful tactics, cruising to the second fastest women's final victory 9-1, 9-2, 9-0 in just 20 minutes. Only Sue Cogswell was more efficient, beating Teresa Lawes in 13 minutes in 1977.

Miss Le Moignan: efficient

Williams has risen from obscurity during the past two seasons to lead the English rankings and challenge the rest of the world. Five of the eight semi-finalists at Sheffield achieved for the first time such penetration of the domestic challenge.

● Muscat (Reuter) – The world champion, Jahangir Khan, of Pakistan, won the final of the Al Falaj grand prix yesterday when he beat the No 8 seed, Ross Norman, of New Zealand, 9-3, 9-1, 9-6. Chris Dittmar, the No 2 seed from Australia, took third place by beating the No 3 seed, Qamar Zaman, of Pakistan, 8-10, 9-0, 9-3, 9-7.

Cyclist killed

Aranda de Duero (Agencies) – Alberto Fernandez, one of Spain's top cyclists, was killed in a road accident near here yesterday when he was driving home from Madrid after receiving the Spanish cyclist of the year award. Fernandez, aged 29, was second in this year's Tour de Spain. His wife also died in the crash.

BASKETBALL

Two clubs with much in common

By Nicholas Harling

As next month's cup finalists, who play each other in a preview in tonight's first division game at Tolworth, Kingcraft Kingston and FSO Cars, Warrington/Liverpool Vikings have even more than that in common. Both clubs have a similar delicate problem concerning an injury to a key player

Dan Davis, Kingston's American centre, may have to be persuaded to rest his injured knee tonight and strained ankle ligaments could force Colin Irish, the Viking forward, out of the game. The problem for both teams is that they are still in the running for the League, having lost two games apiece, and know thay cannot afford to lose players so essential to their plan. On the other hand, both clubs risk going into the Kellogg's Cup final at the Albert Hall on January 6 depleted.

Davis, who sank 15 points in the 107-93 semi-final defeat of Cottrills Manchester Giants on Thursday, which took Kingston through 205-190 on aggregate, has been advised to rest by a doctor. Nor did Irish improve his fitness by playing for 12 minutes as Vikings swept Doncaster aside 96-78 and 178-158 on aggregate.

Sperring Solent Stars, the league leaders who may fold next week, will after all go ahead with tonight's first division game with John Carr Doncaster at Fleming Park Eastleigh. Their supporters club are promoting the game.

CROSS COUNTRY

Running from the English winter

It will afford little hope and no consolation to Tim Hutching's opponents in the IAC cross-country event at Ipswich this afternoon to know that he finds some of his training a lot harder than his races. Your unfortunate correspondent can testify to the training part. With a presumption born of poor memory, or probably just plain stupidity, I tried to accompany Hutchings on a "steady jog" around Wandsworth Common a few days ago and could barely last the first three miles. And I was on a bicycle.

With the disarming ingenuousness that marks many of his utterances, Hutchings observed afterwards that even some of the top athletes he occasionally trains with "find that my steady runs are rather fast – perhaps that's why I get so many injuries".

But the series of injuries that delayed his rise as a teenage sub-four-minute miler until his mid-twenties have stayed at bay for the last 15 months. And the acceleration upwards out of that erratic rise and fall in form has been as dramatic as the burst from the pack that signalled his runaway victory in the last big domestic cross-country race at Gateshead three weeks ago.

Favourite

Hutchings, aged 26 last week, has gone on to win two of the big French cross-country races in the same fashion and is clear favourite to repeat last year's victory in Chantry Park, Ipswich, today. He is scheduled to run another race in France, this time on the road next Sunday (the organizers are hoping to get Said Aouita, the Moroccan 5,000 metres Olympic champion, to run). Then, after the Mallusk international cross-country race in Belfast on January 5, Hutchings will decamp to relatives in New Zealand for three months to escape the English winter.

Warm weather training abroad has become a favourite ploy of Britain's top athletes in recent winters – and the fact that Hutchings began making a living out of the sport concurrently with the start of that injury-free period 15 months ago means that he is not interrupting anything more serious than chilblains by a protracted absence.



Hutchings: warming up

At first glance, Hutchings could be mistaken for a throwback to the Chariots of Fire era of privilege, with his well-to-do background, public school confidence and Country Life accent. He has the airy detachment of one who has not had to scrabble for an education or a living. But the recent acquisition (with his brother) of a house in Wandsworth is one manifestation of the financial independence that he deemed necessary, despite the "enormous amounts of money" that his parents make as a high-ranking Civil Servant and the personnel manager of a Park Lane club.

Annoyance

His annoyance at their house-warming gift of a three-piece suite, "without asking our opinion first," is further proof that Hutchings wishes to be his own man. He gets on well with his parents but the weeks working as a dustman in Haywards Heath after he came down from Loughborough three years ago must have given them pause. "I never had the misfortune to bump into any of my dad's friends on the local Conservative committee", he says, amused. But his workmates still remain something of a mystery to him. "They never really seemed interested in why I was doing it."

He was doing it to save for his first trip to New Zealand in early 1982, after which the form that had won him a tenth place in the 1978 Commonwealth Games 1,500 metres returned. He improved all his best times up to 5,000 metres, finishing seventh at that distance in the European championships in Athens, and fifteenth in the Commonwealth Games.

That was his first season as a 5,000 metres runner but the injuries struck again last year, keeping him out of the first world championships in Helsinki. But he came back at the end of the year to win the Gateshead and Ipswich cross-country races. He went on the win the silver medal in the world cross-country championships last March and capitalized on that background to finish fourth in the Olympic 5,000 metres, won by Aouita.

Lucrative

Hutchings will miss this season's world cross-country championships in March owing to his New Zealand training trip. And, with no major championships next summer, his focus is a world record at 5,000 metres, with a possible move up to 10,000 metres, with a possible move up to 10,000 metres, followed by a tour of the lucrative American road-race circuit.

Aouita and Sebastian Coe, who is moving up to 5,000 metres after his unprecedented double Olympic 1,500 metres next summer," he said. "People seem to think he's going to be God's own gift to the distance."

But the man who left his first love, rugby, because he was too small to be a wing forward – "I got fed up, coming off the pitch needing stitches" – is not going to get bundled out of the way so easily on the track, where he tends to be the giant. The lesson of the last three weeks is that no one has been beside him long enough to do anything. Today should be no exception.

Pat Butcher

FOR THE RECORD

BOXING

ATLANTIC CITY: Cruiserweight: Dwight Muhammad Qawi bt Stanley Ross, pts.

BASKETBALL

EUROPEAN CUP: Semi-final, record series: Banco Roma 74, CSKA Mosow 71; GV Cologna 81, Cibona Zagreb 72.

New York Knicks 119, Utah Jazz 115; Phoenix Suns 116, Washington Bullets 86; Houston Rockets 96, Atlanta Hawks 93; Los Angeles Clippers 106, Portland Trail Blazers 100; Seattle Supersonics 124, Los Angeles Lakers 122.

TEL AVIV: European Cup: Maccabi Tel Aviv 101, Real Madrid 97.

FOOTBALL

CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Stoke City 3, Coventry City 2; Nottingham Forest 1, Sheffield United 2.

EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Tiptree 0, Sudbury 3.

FA YOUTH CUP: Second round: Huddersfield 2, Wigan 0. Second round replay: Brentford 0, Queen's Park Rangers 2.

SINGAPORE: Asian Cup: Semi-finals: China 1, Kuwait 0 (aet) China meet Saudi Arabia in Final.

BADMINTON

KUALA LUMPUR: Grand Prix championship finals: Women, Group I: D Kheer (Den) bt Magnusson (Swe) 11-1, 7-11, 12-10. Group II: I Lie (Indo) bt K Beckman (England) 11-1, 5-11, 11-7. Men: Group I: M Frost (Den) bt N Yates (Eng) 15-7, 15-10. Group II: M Sidek (Malay) bt I Sugiarto (Indo) 4-15, 15-3, 15-4. Group III: Baddeley (Eng) bt J P Nierhoff (Den) 15-12, 18-13. Group IV: Han Jian (China) bt H Arbi (Indo) 15-9, 15-9.

ICE HOCKEY

National League (NHL): Los Angeles Kings 7, Edmonton Oilers 2; New Jersey Devils 4, St Louis Blues 4; Boston Bruins 5, Quebec Nordiques 5; Vancouver Canucks 5, Montreal Canadiens 4.

OULU: International match: Finland 6, Sweden 1.

RUGBY UNION

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Middlesex County Clubs 16, Essex 0.

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Cornwall under-18 18, Somerset under-18 6.

RUGBY FIVES

AMATEUR SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP: Semi-finals: G W Enstone bt I P Fuller 15-6, 15-4. A R Wynn bt D J Hebden 15-12, 15-7. Final: Enstone beat Wynn 15-7, 15-5.

GOLF

MILNERTON: South African Masters, third round: 204: T Johnstone (SA). 207: I Mosey (GB), W Humphreys (GB). 208: F Allen (SA). 209: N Faldo (GB). 210: N Burch (GB). 211: G Player (SA), M Johnson (GB). 212: T Webber (SA), C Moody (GB).

BOCA RATON, Florida, PGA Team Invitational, first round: (US unless stated): 61: H Sutton and R Floyd; D Pohl/G Powers. 62: J Nicklaus and Miller; R Faxon and W Wood; T Nakajima (Japan) and Sindelar; P Hancock and R Streck; M Nicolette and T Norris. Other score: 67: P Oosterhuis (GB) and A Geiberger.

TAIPEI: Taipei PGA championship, second round (Taiwanese unless stated): 138: A Ohmach (Japan) 69, 69. 140: Chen Tze-Ming 69, 71; Ho Ming-Chung 71, 69; Hsu Sheng-San 68, 72; Lu Liang-Huan 71, 69. 141: Chen Tze-Chung 72, 69; Hsieh Yu-Shy 71, 70. 142: Chung Chun-Hsing 72, 70; Lu Ho-Tsak 72, 70; Kazunori Mizuno (Japan) 73, 69; Kuo Chie-Hsiung 71, 71.

CRICKET

PERTH: Women's tour, first Test: England first innings 290 (J Court 90; L Fullston 4 for 61). Australia first innings 198 for 4 wkts (D Emerson 84, J Kennare 50 not out).

TENNIS

TOKYO: Pan Pacific women's open: Quarter-finals: C Kohde (WGer) bt B Potter (US) 6-3, 6-7 (3-7), 6-3; M Maleeva (Bul) bt C Lindqvist (Swe) 6-2, 4-6, 6-2; H Sukova (Cz) bt G Fernandez (P Rico) 7-6 (7-4), 4-6, 6-4; C Bassett (Can) bt L Bonder (US) 6-3, 6-2.

PLANTATION, Florida: Sunshine Cup, quarter-finals: Soviet Union 3, Italy 0 (A Olkhovsky bt C Pistolesi 7-5, 6-4; A Volkov bt N Devide 6-2, 4-6, 6-3; Olkhovsky and Volkov bt Pistolesi and A Padovan 6-3, 6-0); Mexico 3, Yugoslavia 0 (L Lavalle bt B Oresar 0-6, 7-6, 6-4; A Moreno bt I Saric 6-3, 1-6, 7-6; I Lesmitra and E Velez bt S Marinkovic and R Armenulic 6-3, 6-4.

NORDIC SKIING

TRENTO, Val di Sole: World Cup: Women's 3 x 5km: 1, Finland A 45 min 34.80 sec; 2, Soviet Union A 45:49.40; 3, Soviet Union B 46:01.70; 4, Norway A 46:15.20; 5, Norway B 46:26.40; 6, Soviet Union C 46:43.00; 7, East Germany 47:01.10; 8, Sweden A 47:13.30. Leading standings: 1, Finland A 26pts; 2, Soviet Union A 20; 3, Norway A 16; 4, East Germany 14; 5, Sweden A 12; 6, Czechoslovakia A 10; 7, Switzerland A 8; 8, Italy A 6; 9, United States A 4; 10, Poland 2.

IN BRIEF

King accused of evading tax payments

New York (AFP) – A federal grand jury has indicted Don King, the boxing promoter, for tax evasion. King, aged 53, is accused of failing to declare $420,000 and of not paying $211,000 in back-taxes between 1978 and 1980.

If found guilty, King could face a five-year prison sentence and a $10,000 fine.

King became one of the world's most famous promoters in the 1970s. Among major contests he staged were world heavyweight title contests between George Foreman and Muhammed Ali in Zaire and Joe Frazier and Muhammad Ali in the Philippines.

GOLF: A desert sandstorm whipped up by winds of almost 50 mph forced postponement of the second round of the US PGA tour qualifying tournament yesterday at La Quinta, California. All 160 players were on the La Quinta and Mission Hills courses when the storm reduced visibility to 25 metres.

BADMINTON: Although Indonesia's Icuk Sugiarto surprisingly lost to Misbun Sidek of Malaysia in three sets, he still qualified for the semi-finals of the Pro-Kennedy Grand Prix championship in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. He will play Morten Frost Hansen of Denmark in one of today's semi-finals while Liem Swie King of Indonesia plays Han Jian of China in the other.

ROWING

London reveal impressive trials line-up

By Jim Railton

London University trial eights yesterdy contained an impressive range of pedigree. They included among their past honours 11 Purples (London's near equivalent of a Blue); three Henley medal winners, five Henley semi-finalists, five junior internationals, two Under-23 world medal winners and two Cambridge Blues, including the past president, Simon Harris. Out of such talent London University can expect to be prominent again over the next few years.

Harris stroked "Trouble Shooter" with the Irishman McCormick leading the opposition, "Penny Pincher" in the boat christened Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother.

PENNY PINCHER: P Williams (Strodes and Royal Holloway) bow, J M Herd (Abingdon and University College), *T I Lappard (Hampton and King's College), *I M Burnett (Abingdon and University College), *J S Davidson (Monkton Combe and London Hospital), *T J Ryder (Latymer Upper and St Thomas' Hosp), P M Beaumont (King's Worcester and Queen Mary), *C J McCormick (Methodist College Belfast and St Thomas' Hosp) stroke, I Bernstein (City of London and London Hospital).

TROUBLE SHOOTER: G Barringer (Boston Univ USA and Queen Mary) bow, *A Robinson (Hampton and University College), O Warner (Wallingford and London Hospital), D C W Martin (St George's and Queen Mary), *T O Dillon (Beckett and King's), *J M Maxey (King's Canterbury and Charing Cross Hospital), *M J Allwork (St George's and Queen Mary), S A Harris (Queens' Cambridge, and University College) stroke, *H V O Thomas (Shrewsbury and University College).

*A Purple

SNOOKER

Thorburn and Thorne reel off six in row

Cliff Thorburn and Willie Thorne were within three frames of victory after the the first session of their Hofmeister world doubles championship semi-final in Northapton yesterday. The No 2 seeds reached the interval with a commanding 6-1 lead in their best-of-17-frame tie against Tony Knowles and John Spencer.

The Lancastrian pari began impressively, Knowles putting down a 78 break to win the opening frame in only 14 minutes. That was their sole success of the afternoon.

Thorburn and Thorne took the second frame in 27 minutes and then eased 3-1 ahead with breaks of 34 from Thorne and 43 Thorburn, the Canadian champion. They took the fifth frame and enjoyed more than a little luck in the next. Knowles and Spencer led by four points on the blue when Spencer tried for a thin contact, missed the ball completely and also presented Thorne and Thorburn with a free ball.

Thorburn then cleared up to win the frame on the black. He showed his best form when he made breaks of 51 and 63 in the seventh frame.

SCORE: C Thorburn and W White lead T Knowles and J Spencer 6-1. Frames scores (Thorburn and Thorne first): 24-79, 62-47, 67-22, 70-66, 63-12, 69-52, 114-1.

TABLE TENNIS

EUROPEAN LEAGUE: Hungary 5, Netherlands 2; Poland 4, Sweden 3.

SKIING

Snowfall helps season's fourth first-time winner

Madonna di Campiglio, Italy (AFP) – Dorota Tlalka of Poland won her first World Cup race, becoming the fourth first-time winner in the five races held so far this year, when she triumphed in yesterday's slalom here.

Miss Tlalka, aged 21, finished with an aggregate time of 1min 47.90sec, just under half a second faster than Brigitte Gadient of Switzerland. Christelle Guignard, of France, who won her first World Cup race in last week's slalom at Davos, finished third.

Perrine Pelen of France, who equalled Erika Hess's record of 15 World Cup slalom wins at Courmayeur in the first race of the season, finished fourth. She had set the fastest time in the first run, ahead of Miss Tlalka; but an indifferent patch on the lower half of the second run pushed her down.

Snow fell for the first time this season and several of the favourites failed to finish, among them Miss Hess, who nevertheless kept her overall lead in the series.

RESULTS: 1, S Tlalka (Pol), 1 min 47.90 sec; 2, B Gadient (Switz), 1:48.38; 3, C Guignard (Fr), 1:48.57; 4, P Pelen (Fr), 1:48.59; 5, O Charvatova (Cz), 1:49.13; 6, R Steiner (Austria), 1:49.16; 7, M Epple (WG), 1:49.29; 8, U Konzett (Liech), 1:49.31; 9, V Schneider (Switz), 1:49.48; 10, B Oertli (Switz), 1:49.72; 11, C Schmidhauser (Switz), 1:49.85; 12, M Tlalka (Pol), 1:50.92; 13, A Leskovsek (Yug), 1:50.98; 14, F Twardokens (US), 1:51.23; 15, D Zini (It), 1:51.40.

SLALOM STANDINGS: 1, Pelen, 42 pts; 2, Guignard, 40; equal 3, D Tlalka and Epple, 33; 5, E Hess (Switz), 31.

OVERALL STANDINGS: 1, Hess, 57 pts; 2, Verni, 54; 3, Guignard, 48; equal 4, Pelen and M Kiehl (WG), 42; 6, T Haecher (WG), 40; equal 7, E Kirchler (Austria), D Tlalka and Epple, 38; 10, M Gerg (WG), 31.

Zurbriggen outshone in practice

Val Gardena, Italy (Reuter) – Pirmin Zurbriggen of Switzerland, hoping to extend his lead in the World Cup overall standings, could only record the ninth fastest time in yesterday's final practice for the first downhill event of the season, which takes place here today.

Zurbriggen, the reigning overall champion, was outshone by his Swiss colleague Peter Mueller, who produced the fastest run of two minutes, 05.74 seconds, ahead of Michael Mair, of Italy, and Peter Wirnsberger, of Austria.

Other prime contenders fared even worse. Franz Klammer, here for the thirteenth time, finished almost four seconds behind Mueller, in sixteenth position, although he was well ahead of the Olympic gold medal winner Bill Johnson.

If snow continues to fall, producing a slow piste, the conditions could favour Mueller, Johnson and Helmut Höflehner, of Austria, fourth fastest today. All of them prefer a soft surface. In contrast, Klammer prefers hard, icy surfaces.

CRICKET

N Zealand threaten to walk off over umpire's decision

Karachi. (Reuter) — Pakistan's second innings was overshadowed by two heated exchanges between the umpires and the New Zealanders, with the touring team threatening to walk off on the fourth day of the third Test yesterday.

At the close, Pakistan had struggled to 77 for two, still 21 runs behind New Zealand's first innings 426 all out. The visitors, resuming at 316 for four, crashed to 361 for eight before staging a creditable recovery.

The trouble flared in the closing minutes when the New Zealand players clashed with umpire Shakoor Rana after he had rejected a loud appeal for a catch behind off Miandad. During a heated argument in the middle it appeared that the two umpires had started walking towards the pavilion. The New Zealnad players began to follow but, after a discussion lasting several minutes, play resumed.

Earlier in the day Bracewell, the off-spinner, clashed with umpire Javed Akhtar and the New Zealand captain, Jeremy Coney, intervened to calm down both bowler and official.

Pakistan claimed four cheap wickets in the morning session, but dogged partnership between Mc Ewan (40 not out) ad Bracewell (30) helped New Zealand push their lead to 98. Pakistan's most successful bowler of the series, Iqbal Qasim, began the collapse, finishing with figures of four for 133.

The home side soon lost opener Mudassar, with McEwan bringing off a stupendous one-handed catch off Stirling in the first over of the second innings. Qasim Omar was never comfortable but stayed to push the score to 37 before falling to a sharp return catch by Martin Crowe.

Miandad joined Shoaib but looked shaky throughout and was lucky when Wright dropped him at mid-off when only on seven.

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings

J G Wright c Dalpat b Iqbal Qasim	107
B A Edgar run out	15
J F Reid c Iqbal Qasim b Azeem	97
M D Crowe l-b-w b Raja	45
J J Crowe c Miandad b Azeem	62
*J V Coney c and b Iqbal Qasim	16
P F McEwan not out	40
†I D S Smith c Salim b Iqbal Qasim	0
D A Stirling c Qasim Omar b Iqbal Qasim	7
J G Bracewell c Dalpat b Azeem	30
S L Boock c Dalpat b Azeem	0
Extras (b 1, l-b 5, n-b 1)	7
Total	426

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-83, 2-183, 3-258, 4-292, 5-338, 6-352, 7-353, 8-361, 9-426, 10-426.

BOWLING: Mudassar Nazar 15.4-2-45-0; Azeem Hafeez 46.4-9-132-4; Iqbal Qasim 57-13-133-4; Wasim Raja 33-8-97-1; Zaheer Abbas 5.2-1-13-0.

PAKISTAN: First Innings 328 (Anil Dalpat 52, Wasim Raja 51, Salim Malik 0; D A Stirling 4 for 88, S L Boock 4 for 83)

Second Innings

Mudassar Nazar c McEwan b Stirling	0
Shoaib Mohammad not out	22
Qasim Omar c and b M D Crowe	17
Javed Miandad not out	25
Extras (l-b 8, n-b 5)	13
Total (2 wkts)	77

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-57.

BOWLING: (to date): Stirling 6-1-21-1; M D Crowe 4-1-9-1; Bracewell 12-6-13-0; Boock 5-1-19-0; Reid 2-1-7-0.

No-balls and wides debited to bowlers.

Ellison helps cover gap left by Allott

From Richard Streeton, Delhi

England will decide this weekend whether to send for a replacement for Paul Allott, the Lancashire fast-medium bowler, whose back injury has prevented him bowling properly for three weeks. Allott, aged 28, who was brought to India to fill the stock bowling role, will have a strenuous workout today in the nets. If he has any reaction at the base of his spine, where the recent pain has been, he is likely to return to England.



Allott: Back trouble

The problem has still not been properly traced, but his prospects are not good. It is wretched luck for Allott, who was expected to bowl for long periods and to keep the score down. He also had an important part in England's plans for the one-day games in Australia in February and March. Allott struggled on his last appearance, which was in Rajkot against West Zone from November 21-24.

Since then he has only recently started light exercising again but has not turned over an arm in anger. Rest is the recommended treatment for Allott's injury and it might prove in the interests of both the player and the touring team if he returned home.

The procedure for choosing Allott's replacement would be for the tour management to suggest the player they want and the TCCB and selectors have to agree. There are players on standby, keeping fit, either on overseas assignments, or in England but there is nothing to prevent a choice being made from outside those on standby. The first names being bandied about here are Jonathan Agnew, of Leicestershire, who won two caps at the end of last summer, David Thomas, the Surrey all-rounder, whose left-arm pace would bring variety to England's attack, or Neil Williams, the Middlesex fast bowler.

The replacement could be linked with whether England have any serious intention to try and enlist Ian Botham's help in Australia. There are those who feel that Botham, having decided to miss the rigours of India and rest, would benefit most from a complete break from cricket this winter. If he is going to be used in Australia, he might as well join this tour in the second week in January in time for the last two Test matches and the final three one-day internationals, the one-day games being spread over 12 days between the fourth and fifth Test matches.

England could certainly manage over the next three weeks with 15 players during the Christmas and New Year period. Ellison's newly acquired form with the new ball has helped cover the gap left by Allott's inability to play in the first two Tests, and Foster is still on hand if another fast bowler is required. England, incidentally, are limited to 14 players in Australia, under the one-day tournament's rules, and any replacement for Allott is certain to be taken there. French and Pocock, at this stage, look likely to be the two unfortunates to return home after the tour's Indian section.

Ther have been around 35 replacements or reinforcements called upon by England touring teams over the years, 75 per cent of them since the Second World War, when flying has made it an easy matter to move someone across the world. Considering the health hazards sometimes held against India for Europeans, it is interesting that England have only had to replace four players on visits to the sub-continent. Leadbeater took over from A E Rhodes (hernia) in 1951-2, Binks for Murray (varicose veins) in 1961-62 and Cowdrey and Parfitt for Stewart (stomach illness) and Barrington (broken hand) in 1963-64.

David Gower, the England captain, felt England were "nicely placed" at his rest-day press conference. He praised Robinson's batting and Ellison's bowling, in particular, for helping England reach a position from which they hoped to go on and take control of the game. England, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, resumed today 200 runs behind on a slow, low pitch. England's ambition is to obtain a lead of around 130 or 150, at least, in order to leave themselves as little as possible to do in the fourth innings.

In both Test matches so far England have benefitted from undisciplined batting by the front-rank Indian players, even if the second half of the order have redeemed the situation. Gavaskar's place is safe in any case, but he is odds-on with our tour bookmaker to make a large score soon and certainly in the fourth Test at Madras, one of his favourite grounds. Gaekwad and Patil, though, must make some runs in the second innings to keep their places.

SCORES: India 307 (Kapil Dev 60, Ellison 4 for 66). England 107 for 2 wkts (R T Robinson 53 not out).

W Indians out of sorts

Devonport (Reuter) – Tasmania, boosted by a pep talk from a sports psychologist, dismissed the West Indians for a modest 184 here yesterday. The West Indians appeared out of sorts in a colder climate than in the Adelaide sunshine of the second Test and surrendered fairly tamely. At the close Tasmania were 34 without loss.

The touring team sagged to 34 for four, but Baptiste (54) and Lloyd (30) put on 80 together to salvage some pride, although Richards failed again, scoring only 16.

Gomes retired hurt with a bruised middle finger and Davis, the fast bowler, injured his left hamstring.

WEST INDIANS: First Innings

R B Richardson c Woolley b Brown	8
†T R O Payne c Ray b Brown	2
A L Logie lbw b Brown	7
I V A Richards b Patterson	16
H A Gomes retired hurt	14
*C H Lloyd c Hyatt b Patterson	30
E A E Baptiste c Buckingham b Faulkner	54
R A Harper c Goodman b Faulkner	2
M A Holding c Hyatt b Brown	18
C A Walsh b Faulkner	16
W W Davis not out	17
Extras (l-b 1, n-b 1)	2
Total	184

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-18, 3-17, 4-34, 5-114, 6-121, 7-134, 8-164, 9-184.

BOWLING: Patterson 17-2-57-2; Brown 13-3-72-4; Faulkner 17-5-42-3; Saunders 1-0-2-0.

TASMANIA: First Innings

M Ray not out	14
G Goodman not out	14
Extras (l-b 1, n-b 5)	6
Total (0 wkts)	34

Invitation to Willis

Bob Willis, England's former captain record breaking fast bowler with 325 Test wickets, ha been invited to join the Warwickshire county committee from January 1. Willis captained the county for five years. Alan Smith secretary, said: "The committee have also made Bob a life member of the club in recognition of his contribution to the county over 14 seasons. We now believe he has a lot more to offer in the future."

Graveney re-elected

David Graveney, under fire from a Gloucestershire reform group for being an ineffectual captain, was at Wednesday's annual general meeting of the Gloucestershire County Cricket Club, re-elected captain for the forthcoming season.

RACKETS

Tonbridge are the school to beat

By William Stephens

The climax of the winter term, the Public Schools singles championships, begin at Queen's Club today and Tonbridge are favourites to win. They have the outstanding competitor in Rupert Owen-Browne, who sharpened up with William Boone on Thursday, taking one game and being close to 2-2 with the world champion who, by all accounts, was not taking things lightly.

Owen-Browne, the J. K. Foster Cup first seed, has the spectacular brilliance of James Male, but is prone to lapses in concentration when he indulges in impetuous shots, being tempted to play his double-handed strokes without moving into position.

This term Somon Heck and Jolyon Symonds gave the Haileybury professional, Peter Ellis, deserved reward when they beat Owne-Browne and Simon Davies 4-2. The Etonians, Peter Baily and Matthew Smail, beat Owen-Browne and his brother James 4-2, as did the Harrovians David Dick and William Sexton, 4-3.

RACING: FITZGERALD'S CHASER LOOKS OUTSTANDING ON HENNESSY GOLD CUP FORM

Canny Danny's case looks solid

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

With the form of this year's Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup already working out so well, Canny Danny (nap) looks a good bet to win the SGB Handicap Chase at Ascot today. At Newbury he was the only one to make a race of it in the straight with Burrough Hill Lad, who, of course, has scaled even greater heights in the meantime at Wetherby by trouncing Wayward Lad at level weights. More recently, Gaye Chance and Kumbi, who finished third and fifth respectively in the big Newbury race, have stressed the reliability of that form by winning at Haydock.

In the Hennessy, Canny Danny finished 22 lengths ahead of the fourth horse, Fortina's Express, who had himself won his three previous races. In the circumstances it is hard to picture Fortina's Express beating him now on only a pound better terms. Likewise, it is difficult to make out a case for Tom's Little Al beating my nap, even though he is in good form.

At Ascot last February, they met in the Whitbread Trial Chase. On that occasion, Canny Danny gave Tom's Little Al a stone and a 15-length hiding. Now, they are carrying the same weight. Richdee and Duke Of Milan both boast fine records at Ascot, but I will be disappointed if Canny Danny cannot win this nice consolation prize which he so richly deserves after that fine effort at Newbury.

The presence of two front runners – Desert Orchid and Northern Trial – in the field for the HSS Hire Shop Hurdle could set the race up for See You Then, who is likely to be ridden with restraint by John Francome. In fact by taking a line through that ultra-reliable yardstick, Ra Nova, it is possible to argue that See You Then should beat Desert Orchid, who has, in any case, been laid low by a virus since he last ran.

Crimson Embers, who won the Long Walk Hurdle on this occasion 12 months ago, looks poised to give a repeat performance. This out and out stayer was seen in bright form at Wincanton recently, when beating Very Promising.

Instead of taking on Ragafan and Brave George in the Frogmore Handicap Chase at Ascot, Little Bay runs instead in the Sheila's Cottage Chase at Doncaster, so provoking the question of whether or not it is sensible to stage almost indentical races on the same afternoon, when there are so few good two miles chasers around. What is clear is that Dennis Coakley will need the touch of a magician if he is to coax the enigmatic Little Bay past Mossy Moore in the closing stages. Caught in the mood and ridden right, Little Bay can do it, in my opinion.

Townley Stone, so impressive at Sandown and Ascot already this season, has a tough task against the two Dickinson runners, State Case and The Welder in the Freebooter Novices' Chase. As he has already thrashed Sula Bula this season, Townley Stone should have nothing to fear from that quarter, and I think that he should just about win again. No matter how Sula Bula gets on, Dover (1.15) and Cybrandian (2.50) can keep up Peter Easterby's impressive rate of success these past few Saturdays.

At Towcester that good hurdler, Goldspun, will win the Mistletoe Novices' Chase just as long as he takes to jumping fences in public as well as his stable and schooling companion, Very Promising, did at Haydock Park on Wednesday.

Super Grass, who ran so well behind The Breener at Newbury, can win the first division of the Christmas Pudding Novices' Hurdle for Stan Mellor, Mark Perrett and Simon Tindall. Whether his stable companion, Ashlone, can pull off a memorable double for the same connexions by winning the other division seems open to doubt in view of the presence of Fulke Walwyn's promising six-year-old, Hunter River, who was beaten only a short head first time out.



Duke Of Milan, who runs in this afternoon's SGB Handicap Chase at Ascot, will be attempting to gain his fifth victory over the Berkshire course.



Out Of The Gloom a bright prospect

Out Of The Gloom stamped himself as a Cheltenham horse when winning the Saucy Kit Novices' Hurdle at Doncaster yesterday to give John O'Neill his first winner for six weeks. O'Neill was out of action with a broken left arm after falling on Goosy Gander at Wetherby on November 3.

The 6-5 favourite was restrained in the early stages by O'Neill, but with some bold jumping, pulled his way to the front approaching the last hurdle and strode away from the opposition. "Out Of The Gloom will go for the Triumph Hurdle", Reg Hollinshead said. "I have had runners in that before, but the best I have managed is fourth". The trainer was saddling his sixth success from 12 horses this season.

John Francome, the leading jockey, who may announce his retirement plans at Chrismas, is still chasing his first winner this month. He was on the runner-up, Wassem, in this event and was later beaten on Rhythmic Pastimes, the favourite for the Sea Piegon Handicap Hurdle.

Jimmy Fitzgerald and stable jockey, Ron O'Leary, completed a favourites double with Direct Line and Zamandra. Direct Line started 3-1 joint favourite for the Red Alligator Handicap Chase and cruised home by 15 lengths from Far Bridge. The winner, pushed into the lead two out, soon had the race sewn up. Fitzgerald said: "He is like a tank at his fences and when racing at Cheltenham hit a fence two out and demolished it. He still managed to finish fourth there".

Zamandra, starting 6-4 on, led two out but almost lost the advantage as O'Leary casually looked over his shoulder in the dying stages.

Fitzgerald was angered by the over-confidence of his jockey. He said: "If he had lost the race I would have had to tell him about his riding".

Run And Skip jumped splendidly in the hands of Sam Moreshead, to gain a third successive all-the-way win in the Stoneleigh Handicap Chase at Warwick. The six-year-old's 10 length victory completed a 77-1 double for Morshead, who, was also successful on the 25-1 shot, Rogairio.

Run And Skip, unbeaten this season, has improved his jumping out of all recognition and the secret is that he does no schooling. "The more you school him, the worse he jumps, so he doesn't see a fence at home" John Spearing, the trainer, said. He received the gelding at Alcester last April when his four Leicestershire owners transferred him form Roger Fisher's stable.

Nickle Moppett was close on the heels of Run And Skip three fences from home, but the leader outjumped him to go away between the last two fences, with Port Askaig running Nickle Moppett out of second place.

"Run And Skip used to be a bad jumper, but appears to have got it together now", Spearing said, pointing out that the gelding was out of the handicap in the Welsh Grand National. "In the circumstances, I don't think I will run him at Chepstow, but I'll think about it over the weekend", he added.

Rogairio, on whom Morshead got up close home to beat the 5-4 favourite, Wyford, by a length in the first division of the Shirley Novices' Chase, was pulled up in his two previous races this season.

Roadster, who jumped to the front three fences out in the first division of the Novices' Chase, was joined by his market rival, Flaxen Tina, at the last. She might just have touched down first, but Roadster regained command on the run-in to win by two lengths.

Royal Charge, 33-1 winner of the second division to the Hampton Novices' Hurdle, was not backed by anyone on the Tote, so all win bets were refunded. The dual forecast, however, paid £436.80 pence for a £1 stake.



O'Neill: victory on second day back

ASCOT (BBC)

[Televised: 12.50, 1.20, 1.55]

GOING: good to soft.

Tote: double 1.20, 2.30. Treble 12.50, 1.55, 3.00

12.15 KILLINEY NOVICE CHASE (£5,472: 2m 4f) (6 runners)

102 021-p10 HANDY BILLY (Lady Earle) J Webber 5-10-13 G Mernagh
103 1314-32 BROWN TRIX (BF) (C Cronin) F Winter 6-10-12 J Francome
104 0/3222- CLAUDE MONET (T Whitley) D Gandolfo 6-10-12 P Barton
106 011p-14 SIGN AGAIN (R Wright) J Fox 6-10-12 S Moore
107 3bp-343 IVACOP (B) (F Starr) B Stevens 5-10-10 –

12.50 H. S. S. HIRE SHOPS HURDLE (£4,819: 2m) (5)

1.20 SGB HANDICAP CHASE (£11,784: 3m) (7)

RICHDEE, (12-0) 3/4l 2nd to Tudor Folly (10-3) at Wetherby (2m 4f ch, £3,033, good, Dec 3, 6 ran). CANNY DANNY, (10-7) 4l runner-up to Burrough Hill Lad (12-0) at Newbury. FORTINA'S EXPRESS (10-0) 22l away 4th (3m 2f ch, £14,231, soft, Nov 24, 13 ran). TOM'S LITTLE AL, (11-0) beat Sailors Return (11-0) by 25l at Chepstow, previously (11-10) beat Leander Blue (10-2) by 3l at Kempton (3m ch, £2,903, good, Nov 3, 4 ran). DUKE OF MILAN, (12-0 poor 5th to Cybrand (10-3), previously (11-10) beat Donegal Prince (11-10 by 7l here (2m 4f ch, £2,443, good, Oct 31, 4 ran). GREENWOOD LAD, (11-7) beat Burnt Oak (11-3) by 3l at Sandown (3m ch, £2,944, good to soft, Nov 30, 5 ran).

SELECTION: RICHDEE.

1.55 LONG WALK HURDLE (Grade 2: £7,016: 3m 2f) (11)

402 112-010 NIALAN (C) (N de Savary) J Jenkins 4-10-11 J Francome
403 424-231 VON TRAPPE (P Clarke) M Oliver 7-10-11 –
404 0-00240 AMRULLAH (B) (T Thom) J Bridger 4-10-8 A Jones
405 0u203-1 CRIMSON EMBERS (B) (C) (Mrs S Smart) F Walwyn 9-10-8 S Shilston
406 011/40- HAL'S JOY (G Palmer) M Pipe 5-10-8 P Leach

2.30 FROGMORE HANDICAP CHASE (£6,508: 2m) (6)

3.00 HAMPTON COURT HANDICAP HURDLE (Amateurs: £2,344: 2m 4f) (16)

Ascot selections

By Mandarin

12.15 Brown Trix. 12.50 See You Then. 1.20 CANNY DANNY (nap). 1.55 Crimson Embers. 2.30 Ragafan. 3.0 Maganyos.

By Michael Seely

1.20 Canny Danny. 2.30 BRAVE GEORGE (nap).

TOWCESTER

GOING: good to soft

12.30 CHRISTMAS PUDDING NOVICE HURDLE (Div I: £634: 2m) (18 runners)

2 000-1 BOSSANOVA BOY (D) P Makin 5-11-7 Steve Knight
3 041 CLARA MOUNTAIN (D) T Forster 5-11-7 H Davies
8 0 BLUE DART J Gifford 4-10-11 P Nicholls
9 00-00 CODGER R Armytage 4-10-11 A Webber
14 0 FIEFDOM G Vergette 4-10-11 S Johnson
17 00-34 GASOOF D Ringer 4-10-11 S McNeill
19 2p4-4 HENRY BELL K Bailey 6-10-11 A Webb
20 0 HIGHLAND FARMER O O'Neill 4-10-11 M Caswell 4
29 00/0 OYSTONS WINDMILL P Oliver 5-10-11 –
30 POINT CLEAR P W Harris 4-10-11 R Stronge
33 02-04 SUPER GRASS S Mellor 5-10-11 M Perrett
35 TROOP THE COLOUR D Nicholson 4-10-11 P Scudamore
36 pp- CLAIR SOLEIL Mrs J Croft 4-10-6 R Dickin
37 LOUISE JESSICA C Jackson 4-10-6 J Burke
39 NICOLA LOUISE Mrs J Pitman 4-10-6 B De Haan
40 PREMIER SUSAN S Christian 6-10-6 W Newton 4
41 04-ff QUELLE FARCE D Gandolfo 4-10-6 M Harrington

1983: Rostra 4-10-6 A Webber (4-1) R Armytage 12 ran

11-4 Bossanova Boy, 7-2 Clara Mountain, Super Grass, 6 Airwair, 10 Blue Dart, Fieldom, 12 others.

1.0 MISTLETOE NOVICE CHASE (£1,313: 2m 5f 110yd) (16)

2 003-1 NOTRE CHEVAL S Mellor 5-11-7 M Perrett
4 0/f0-1 VALE OF WELTON N Henderson 8-11-7 P Croucher 4
6 2200- BATCHWORTH N Henderson 6-11-0 J White
10 p-f DANILOU P Pritchard 7-11-0 J Bryan
13 23-3p DOUBLE PAST T Forster 7-11-0 R Dunwoody
15 0-000 FORCE OF DESTINY N Gaselee 5-11-0 V McKevitt
16 4322- GOLDSPUN (BF) D Nicholson 6-11-0 P Scudamore
17 0-332 GREENORE PRIDE P O'Connor 7-11-0 P Double
18 0/0p0 JOAT R Hartop 8-11-0 P Dever
19 000-4 LISBONEY HILL T Forster 8-11-0 H Davies
21 0p-p MY MAJOR P W Harris 5-11-0 R Stronge
22 u PANDA MAN R Gow 5-11-0 A Webber
25 f3ff SMOKER P W Harris 8-11-0 NON RUNNER
28 0-3fp WISE WORDS P Bailey 6-11-0 R Linley
29 003f HAND ME DOWN D Gandolfo 7-10-9 M Richards
30 0 RYE GRASS D Tucker 10-10-9 S McNeill

1983: What A Boy 8-11-6 P Double (9-2) J Gifford 11 ran.

6-4 Goldspun, 5-2 Vale Of Welton, 7-2 Notre Cheval, 10 Greenore Pride, Lisboney Hill, 12 Double Past, 20 others.

1.30 TURKEY AND HAM SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£493: 2m) (8)

3 0304 LOOKING FOR GOLD P Pritchard 8-11-7 N Fearn 7
4 3000 MASTER BOON (B) D Tucker 5-11-6 S McNeill
5 8p-00 RIDGEWAY GIRL P Burgoyne 4-11-5 R Dunwoody
6 2-421 LORD CHARLES (BF) R Perkins 5-11-3 G Charles-Jones 4
9 00p0 SHIRLSTAR MISS J Long 4-10-8 P Upson 7
10 000-0 VILLACANA Mrs D Onions 5-10-8 J Nolan
11 00-00 KELLY'S FESTIVAL (B) Mrs P Sly 5-10-8 M Bastard
12 0-00p SANDICLIFFE AGAIN D Laing 5-10-8 K Mooney

1983: Hard Bargain 5-10-8 G Charles-Jones (3-1 fav) P Makin 10 ran.

6-4 Lord Charles, 11-4 Looking For Gold, 4 Master Boon, 8 Ridgeway Girl, 12 Kelly's Festival, 16 others.

2.0 PORT AND BRANDY HANDICAP CHASE (£1,245: 3m 190yd) (6)

2.30 HOLLY AND THE IVY CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE (£1,192: 2m 50yd) (5)

1 21-00 TOIRDEALBHACH P O'Connor 10-12-7 N Fearn
2 2-10f PROFESSOR PLUM T Forster 11-11-7 G Charles-Jones
4 1302 NETHERBRIDGE (CD) D Gandolfo 6-10-12 P Croucher
7 p00-3 SPARTIQUICK J Castle 7-10-5 –
10 p13f HIS MASTER'S VOICE (B) M Henriques 6-10-5 J Duggan

1983: Midnight Song 8-10-7 H Davies (4-1) T Forster 13 ran.

2 Netherbridge, Professor Plum, 5-2 Toirdealbhach, 10 Spartiquick, 33 His Master's Voice.

3.0 CHRISTMAS PUDDING NOVICE HURDLE (Div II: £630: 2m) (18)

2 030-1 RHEFFANOSA (D) Miss A Sinclair 5-11-2 A Webber
3 AISLING GEAL D Gandolfo 4-10-11 M Harrington
4 022- AL-ABJAR C Jackson 4-10-11 J Burke
6 30f-2 ASHLONE S Mellor 5-10-11 M Perrett
8 00-0 BENMORE Mrs J Pitman 4-10-11 B De Haan
10 3004/ CANFORD LAD (B) Mrs N Kennedy 7-10-11 A Chamberlain
11 DOWN FLIGHT C Holmes 4-10-11 A Webb
13 FIORENZO N Henderson 4-10-11 P Croucher 4
18 2 HUNTER RIVER F Walwyn 6-10-11 R Chapman 4
21 KESSLIN N Vigors 4-10-11 J White
22 000 KILMORE QUAY Mrs H Parrott 6-10-11 C Jones
23 p-0 KINSBOURNE LAD M Connell 4-10-11 –
28 0- PEACHLEY LANE R Pugh 4-10-11 P Carvill
29 PERCASE P Cundell 5-10-11 A Gorman
35 4332 TIN BOY (BF) D Ringer 5-10-11 S McNeill
37 020-2 TOUR DE FORCE (B) P Makin 4-10-11 H Davies
41 00 GILBERTS CHOICE J King 5-10-6 E Waite
42 000 SPARKLERS SUPERB P Pritchard 7-10-6 P Dever

1982: Zircon's Sun 4-10-11 K Mooney (20-1) D Laing 13 ran.

3 Hunter River, Ashlone, 4 Rheffanosa, Tour De Force, 8 Tin Boy, Kesslin, 12 Al-Abjar, Percase, 14 others.

Towcester selections

By Mandarin

12.30 Super Grass. 1.0 Goldspun. 1.30 Lord Charles. 2.0 Good As Ever. 2.30 Toirdealbhach. 3.0 Hunter River.

Michael Seely's selection: 2.30 Toirdealbhach.

Today's course specialists

ASCOT

TRAINERS: N Crump 4 wins from 6 runners, 66.7%. F Walwyn 13 from 61, 21.3%; N Gaselee 8 from 38, 21.1%.

JOCKEYS: J Francome 31 winners from 153 rides, 20.3%; C Brown 9 from 55, 16.4%; S Smith Eccles 13 from 81, 16.%.

DONCASTER

TRAINERS: Mrs M Rimell 4 wins from 22 runners, 18.18%, M H Easterby 12 from 70, 17.1%; G Richards 4 from 27, 14.8%.

JOCKEYS: R Earnshaw 6 winners from 27 rides, 22.2%; A Brown 7 from 35, 20.0%; J J O'Neill 9 from 50, 18.0%.

TOWCESTER

TRAINERS: R Armytage 12 wins from 52 runners, 23 1%; N Gaselee 11 from 56, 19.6%; T Forster 29 from 149, 19.5%.

JOCKEYS: P Double 7 winners from 30 rides, 23.3%; H Davies 21 from 122, 17.2%; V McKevitt 5 from 37, 13.50%.

● John Burke sets out on the first leg of a unique double in the £22,000 Welsh National at Chepstow tomorrow week. Burke is aiming to win the Welsh National and the Grand National at Aintree next March on the Toby Balding-trained Lucky Vane. He is already one of only two jockeys to win both races in the same season on the same horse – he rode Rag Trade in 1976. Ben de Haan and Corbiere brought off the double two seasons ago.

DONCASTER (ITV)

[Televised: 1.45, 2.15, 2.50]

GOING: good

TOTE: Double 1.45, 2.50. Treble 1.15, 2.15, 3.20.

12.45 GLASGOW PADDOCKS SELLING HURDLE (£1,448: 2m 150yd) (16 runners)

25 30210 RECORD SUPREME (I Ruddock) M Lambert 3-10-5 P A Charlton

1983: Bluebirdino 4-11-9 G P Kelly (14-1) D Chapman 21 ran.

11-4 Halls Prince, 7-2 Judy's Dowry, 9-2 Cluedo, 6 Miss Rapid, 10 Prince Bubbly, 12 Game Rocket, Record Supreme, 16 others.

Doncaster selections

By Mandarin

12.45 Cluedo. 1.15 Dover. 1.45 Townley Stone. 2.15 Little Bay. 2.50 Cybrandian. 3.20 Afzal.

1.15 TEAL NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (£548: 2m 150yd) (12)

1 1311 HAND OVER (Mrs M Haggas) Mrs M Dickinson 5-11-11 J D Davies 7
7 011 DOVER (J Geraghty) M H Easterby 4-10-8 A Brown
8 0032-0p TORONTO STAR (B) (Mrs S Atkinson) A Potts 4-10-6 S J O'Neill
11 -00-01 CAMP KELPIE (Mrs N Lofthouse) B Wilkinson 5-10-2 (7 ex) Mr G Harker 7
14 321-240 KEYCORN (H Kay) J Blundell 4-10-1 J O'Neill
15 3p0402- LEAVT IT TO BALLY (J Holleran) M Lambert 4-10-0 P A Charlton
16 0430-0 BUSORM (C Rawlinson) S Avery 4-10-0 –
19 00-p02 SPANISH BOLD (P Band) M Ryan 4-10-0 J McLaughlin
20 0000-0 MILL BRAE (L Smith) O Brennan 6-10-0 M Brennan
23 bu0 ROTHERLEIGH (H Pickering) J Leigh 4-10-0 P Blackburn 7
27 p0-p PEMELIA (J Dooler) J Dooler 4-10-0 M Pepper
28 010400 DEMON KING (J Thorpe) J G Thorpe 5-10-0 Miss J Vergotta 7

1983: Havenwood 4-10-7 J O'Neill (17-2) K Stone 17 ran.

7-4 Hand Over, 9-4 Dover, 5 Camp Kelpie, 7 Leave It To Bally, 8 Spanish Bold, 16 others.

1.45 FREEBOOTER NOVICE CHASE (Grade 2: £6,472: 2m 150yd) (6)

1 2113-11 TOWNLEY STONE (Mrs L Townley) J Webber 5-11-11 G McCourt
2 0-41233 SULA BULA (B) (G Pratt) M H Easterby 6-11-8 J J O'Neill
4 0022-22 ABU TORKEY (J Blundell) J Blundell 7-11-4 –
6 01-1122 GOLDEN FANCY (Northumbria Leisure Ltd) I Vickers 7-11-4 P Tuck
8 0-12121 STATE CASE (M Hogan) Mrs M Dickinson 6-11-4 Mr R J Beggan
10 /4-3011 THE WELDER (Bendall's of Carlisle) Mrs M Dickinson 6-11-4 R Earnshaw

1983: Noddy's Ryde 6-11-8 N Doughty (4-5 fav) G Richards 8 ran.

4-5 Townley Stone, 3 State Case, 6 The Welder, 8 Sula Bula, 12 Golden Fancy, 16 Abu Torkey

2.15 SHEILA'S COTTAGE CHASE (Limited handicap: Grade 2: £9,356: 2m 150yd) (4)

Selection: LITTLE BAY.

2.50 EMBASSY PREMIER CHASE (Qualifier: £2,422: 3m 4f) (2)

1-8 Cybrandian, 6 Emmason.

Selection: CYBRANDIAN.

3.20 NIGHT NURSE HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,473: 3m 4f) (8)

Doncaster results

1.15 (2½m hdle) 1, OUT OF THE GLOOM (J J O'Neill, 6-5 fav); 2, Wassem (J Francome, 7-1); 3, Nohalmdun (A Brown, 6-1). ALSO RAN: 4 Savoir Vivre (f), 8 Quiet Fall (4th), Love Walked In, 16 Taberna Lord, 20 Pharaoh's Treasure, 25 Qualitair Princess, 33 Telecongold (pu), Pershing (5th), Cheerful Days (6th). 12 ran. 4l, 4l, 1l, 6l, 5l. R Hollinshead at Upper Longdon. TOTE: £2.10: £1.20, £2.00, £2.10. DF: £5.00. CSF: £12.28.

1.45 (2½m ch) 1, DIRECT LINE (R O'Leary, 3-1 jt fav); 2, Far Bridge (B Reilly, 3-1 jt fav); 3, Don't Forget (K Whyte, 6-1). ALSO RAN: 7 Artmarval, Stand Back (5th), 8 Press Gang (4th), 9 Good Crack (6th). 14 Sea Splash. 8 ran. 15l, 3l, 2½l, 2½l, 10l. J Fitzgerald at Malton. TOTE: £3.00: £1.60, £1.10, £2.30. DF: £5.10. CSF: £12.08.

2.15 (2m hdle) 1, ISHKOMANN (R Linley, 11-2); 2, Rhythmic Pastimes (J Francome, 7-4 fav); 3, Turf (C Grant, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 11-2 Comedy Fair, (5th), 15-2 Sweet Colleen (f), 10 Aristo Treat (pu), 11 Steel Venture (6th), 16 Amantiss, 20 Cyprus Sky, 25 Emander (4th), 33 Tommy Gunner. 11 ran. 3l, 1½l, nk, 2l, 12l, J Spearing at Alcester. TOTE: £8.60: £2.30, £1.30, £1.60. DF: £6.90. CSF: £16.37 Tricast: £51.35.

2.45 (3m 122yd ch) 1, ZAMANDRA (R O'Leary, 4-6 fav); 2, Antiguan Moon (P Tuck, 13-2); 3, Welfare (J K Kinane, 7-2). ALSO RAN: 8 Pride O'Fife (5th), 20 Blake (6th), Caldwell Case (4th), Pololu (f), 50 Kerage (pu), Cosmic Occasion (pu). 9 ran. Nk, 15l, 4l, 8l, 20l. J Fitzgerald at Malton. TOTE: £1.60; £1.00, £2.00, £1.40. DF: £5.30. CSF: £6.46.

3.15 (3m 122yd ch) 1, RIGTON SALLY (P Corrigan, 5-4 fav); 2, Even Deeper (A Quinn, 7-2); 3, Whitley Burn (S Turner, 8-1). ALSO RAN: 5-2 Davidstown (f), 20 Edged Gold (pu), Proud Outlook (5th), 33 Conway Grove (4th). NR: Twelter. 7 ran. 12l, 3l, dist, 10l. H Wharton at Wetherby. TOTE: £1.80; £1.40, £1.40. DF: £2.70. CSF: £6.28.

Placepot: £1.55. Tote Double: £13.45. Treble: £10.20.

Warwick

Going: Heavy

12.30 (2m ch) 1, ROGAIRIO (S Morshead, 25-1); 2, Wyford (H Davies, 5-4 fav); 3, Connaught River (P Scudamore, 3-1). ALSO RAN: 5 Flying Mistress (bd), 8 Johns Present (4th), 16 Magic Mouse (5th), 25 Rough Wind (6th), 3 Says Eye (f), 50 Dutch Challenger (ur), Fountain Valley (f), Funky Angel (pu), Rosy Gleam (pu), Harbour Bazaar (ur). 13 ran. 1l, 1½l, 4l, 5l, dist. P Bailey at Salisbury. TOTE: £40.30: £5.50, £1.20, £1.20. DF: £90.50. CSF: £56.44

1.00 (2m hdle). 1, WOODWAY (R Hyett, 6-1); 2, The Mooche (R Arnott, 7-1); 3, What A Popsi (A Wright 20-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 fav Kametak, 7 Hieronymous (4th), 7 Steamy (5th), 12 Mr Key (f), Sultan Zaman, 14 Aquarius Spirit (6th), Keyboard King (pu), 16 Discover Gold (pu), Invisible Ring, 20 Haddak, Karamoun (pu), Summerhill Gold (f), 25 Cambridge Circus (pu), Emily de Pomme, 33 Big Injun, Woler Plume, 50 Bamlat (pu), Donald Davies, Obliged.

… Dream, 33 Broche (pu), Kidswood (ur), My Daty. 17 ran. 10l, hd, 7l, 15l, 4l. C Holmes at Gerrards Cross. TOTE: £2.20: £1.10, £2.10, £8.80. DF: £25.70. CSF: £32.37

2.0 (3m ch) 1, RUN AND SKIP (S Morshead, 2-1 fav); 2, Port Askaig (H Davies, 8-1); 3, Nickle Moppett (A Webber, 3-1). ALSO RAN: 6 West Tip (6th), 8 Cross (5th), 11 Fred Pilliner (4th), 20 Woodlands Lad, 25 Diokils (pu), 40 Jacko, Fine Line (pu). 10 ran. 10l, 7½l, 12l, 2l, 3l. J Spearing at Alcester. TOTE: £3.20: £1.10, £2.40, £1.40. DF: £9.30. CSF: £17.64. Tricast: £42.95.

2.30 (2m ch) 1, ROADSTER (A Webber, 4-1 jt fav); 2, Flaxen Tina (G Mernagh, 4-1 jt fav); 3, Sovereign Island (M Harrington, 8-1). ALSO RAN: 8 Easter Night (f), Little Rock (6th), Nudge Nudge (4th), 8 Tough Customer (pu), 8 Vilingo (pu), 16 Venetian Warrior (pu), 20 Molon Lave (f), 25 Candy Park (5th). 33 Scale The Heights. 12 ran. 2l, 20l, hd, dist, 8l. C Nash at Wantage. TOTE: £5.20 £2.00, £1.90, £2.00. DF: £11.00. CSF: £20.23.

3.0 (2m hdle) 1, ROYAL CHARGE (M Bastard, 33-1); 2, Malakand (Steve Knight, 20-1); 3, Caro Wood (H Davies, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 5-2 …

… Pleasure, Kabuli (pu), Tiallo (pu) 24 ran. NRs: Shieldaig, Monsoon. 5l, hd, hd, 10l, 10l. D Wellcome at Northampton. 2nd Place £9.90, 3rd Place £4.70. DF: £436.80. CSF: £610.25.

3.30 (2m hdle) 1, BOLD ILLUSION (W Morris, 5-1); 2, Going Broke (A Webber, 9-1); 4, Le Levador (A Carroll, 7-1). ALSO RAN: 5-2 fav An-Go-Look (5th), 5 Pip, 14 Shout, 16 Lord Chanticleer, Qualitair Prince, Wearmouth, 20 Applause, Cantabile, Princess Drive, 25 Brockley Belle (PU), Jayess, Rubercola, 33 Majestic Bay, Chalet Waldegg, Derwent King (6th), Avgerinos (PU), Bobbing Star, Biddable. 22 ran. NRs: Sweetcal, Bishops Sluice. 12l, 4l, 4l, hd, 10l. M Eckley at Ludlow. TOTE: £5.30: £1.30, £3.00, £1.70, £2.60. DF: £41.40 CSF £55.93. Tricast: £505.69 Placepot: £630.25.

● Southernair, the four-year-old who carried top weight to victory in the William Hill Handicap Hurdle at Plumpton earlier this week, steps up in class in the £5,000 Salmon Spray Hurdle at Fontwell Park on December 28.

House of Lords | Law Report December 15 1984 | Court of Appeal

Spouse's duty of disclosure in matrimonial dispute orders

Jenkins v Livesey (formerly Jenkins)

Before Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, Lord Chancellor, Lord Scarman, Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Bridge of Harwich and Lord Brandon of Oakbrook

[Speeches sold December 13]

A wife who became engaged to be remarried after her divorce from her husband was bound to disclose that fact to the husband or his solicitors and thereby to the court before a compromise of her claim for financial provision and property adjustment previously arrived at between the parties' solicitors was embodied in a consent order pursuant to section 25 (1) of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973.

The House of Lords allowed an appeal by the former husband, David Henry Jenkins, from the Court of Appeal (Sir John Arnold, President and Mrs Justice Heilbron) (*The Times*, December 22, 1983), who had dismissed an appeal by the husband from Judge Cox in Plymouth County Court.

Section 25(1) of the 1973 Act, as originally enacted, provided:

"It shall be the duty of the court in deciding whether to exercise its powers [to order financial provision] under section 23(1)(a), (b) or (c) or 24 above in relation to a party to the marriage and, if so, in what manner, to have regard to all the circumstances of the case including the following matters, that is to say – (a) the income, earning capacity, property and other financial resources which each of the parties to the marriage has or is likely to have in the foreseeable future; (b) the financial needs, obligations and responsibilities which each of the parties to the marriage has or is likely to have in the foreseeable future . . .".

Mr Robert Johnson, QC and Mr Anthony Myer for the husband; Mr Swinton Thomas, QC and Miss Jean Ritchie for the former wife, Beryl Livesey (formerly Jenkins).

LORD BRANDON *said that the* husband had left the matrimonial home in October, 1981. In the course of correspondence beginning in September, 1981, the parties' solicitors had reached agreement on a number of matters.

First, the marriage having broken down irretrievably, the wife should divorce the husband on the basis of his confession of adultery.

Second, she should have custody of the children.

Third, following the proposed divorce, there should be a consent order of the court in respect of financial provision and property adjustment that would dispose finally of all claims by both parties.

The wife was granted a decree nisi on March 1, 1982, which was made absolute on April 14. On or about August 12, 1982, the parties' solicitors reached final agreement about the form and terms of the proposed consent order. It contained two essential provisions material to the appeal.

First the husband was to transfer his half-share in the matrimonial home to the wife, subject to the mortgage on it for which she would thereafter have sole responsibility. The expressed purpose of that transfer was to provide her with a home entirely of her own in which she could live with the two children.

Second, all the wife's claims for financial provision for herself should be finally dismissed. It was apparent from the correspondence that these two provisions were interdependent.

The *possibility of the wife* deciding to remarry, particularly in the near future, before the proposed consent order came to be put into effect had never been mentioned in the correspondence between the solicitors or between the parties themselves.

On August 18, 1982, the wife had become engaged to another man whom she had first met on July 12. She did not disclose that fact to the husband or his solicitors or even to her own solicitors.

On September 2, the consent order was made. On September 22, the husband conveyed his half-share in the matrimonial home to the wife, that half-share being worth somewhat over £12,000. On September 24, the wife remarried. The husband subsequently learned of that remarriage.

The importance of the wife's non-disclosure of her engagement to remarry was that, by section 28 of the 1973 Act, on remarriage she would have lost permanently any right to any financial provisions from the husband. That being so if the husband *or his solicitors* had been informed of the intended remarriage at any time before the making of the consent order it was clear that the husband would have withdrawn his consent to the making of that order.

The husband applied for the consent order to be set aside on the ground that the wife had failed to disclose a material fact. The judge had considered himself bound by the decision of Mr Justice Tudor Evans in *Wales v Wadham* ([1977] 1 WLR 199) to refuse to set aside the order. The Court of Appeal had *dismissed the husband's appeal.*

The scheme that the legislature had enacted by sections 23, 24, and 25 of the 1973 Act was a scheme under which the court would be bound, before deciding whether to exercise its powers under sections 23, and 24, and, if so, in what manner, to have regard to all the circumstances of the case, including, *inter alia*, the particular matters specified in paragraphs (a) and (b) of section 25(1).

It followed that, in proceedings in which parties invoked the exercise of the court's powers under sections 23, and 24, they must provide the court with information about all the circumstances of the case, including *inter alia*, the particular matters so *specified. Unless they did so*, directly or indirectly, and ensured that the information provided was correct, complete and up to date, the court was not equipped to exercise and could not therefore lawfully and properly exercise, its discretion in *the manner ordained by section* 25(1).

In contested cases relating to the exercise of the court's powers under sections 23 and 24 the requirement that it should have the prescribed information was met by rules of court with which both parties must comply: Matrimonial Causes Rules (SI 1977 No 344), rules 73 to 76 and 77.

The situation regarding consent orders, especially where no affidavits were filed and reliance was placed entirely on the exchange of information between the parties' solicitors, had at the material time been less satisfactory: there had been no specific statutory provisions or rules of court.

It had been common practice for registrars to make such orders without making any such inquiries themselves but relying on the fact that the solicitors could be relied on to have inquired adequately into all the matters to which regard had to be had under section 25 (1). That practice, which had since been improved, had not been wholly satisfactory.

It followed necessarily from what his Lordship had said that each *party concerned in claims for* financial provision and property adjustment (or other forms of ancillary relief) owed a duty to the court to make full and frank disclosure of all material facts to the other party and the court. That principle of full and frank disclosure in such proceedings had long been recognized and enforced as a matter *of practice. The legal basis of that* principle, and the justification for it, were to be found in the statutory provisions to which his Lordship had referred.

Once it was accepted that that principle of full and frank disclosure existed, it was obvious that it must apply not only to contested proceedings heard with full evidence adduced before *the court but* also to exchanges of information between parties and their solicitors *leading to the making of* consent orders without further inquiry by the court. If that were not so, it would be impossible for a court to have any assurance that the requirements of section 25(1) had been complied with before it made such consent orders.

Applying that principle to the facts of the present case there could *be no doubt that the fact that the* wife had, on August 18, 1982, become engaged to be remarried shortly was a matter that she had been under a duty to disclose before the agreement with regard to financial provision and property adjustment previously reached between the solicitors on either side had been put into effect by the making of a consent order *in the* form and terms so agreed. That was because the fact of the wife's engagement was one of the circumstances of the case referred to in section 25(1) and was further of direct relevance to the particular matters specified in paragraphs (a) and (b) of that subsection.

Such disclosure should have been made by the wife to her own solicitors, and through them to the husband's solicitors, and the *husband himself*, as soon as the engagement to remarry had taken place. Since it had not been made, the consent order was invalid and the husband should be entitled, in order to prevent injustice, to have it set aside.

Mr Justice Tudor Evans had been wrong in *Wales v Wadham* to reject so much of the husband's claim as had been based on the need for full and frank disclosure in ancillary proceedings in the Family Division.

Following the decision of the Court of Appeal in the present case, *Practice Direction (Family Division: Financial Statement)* ([1984] 1 WLR 674) had been issued relating to the procedure to be followed in applications for financial provision or property adjustment. *That had* clearly been a step in the right direction so far as the making of consent orders was concerned.

A further step in the right direction had been made by section 33A of the 1973 Act, inserted by section 7 of the Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Act 1984, and the new rule 76A of the Matrimonial Causes Rules 1977 inserted by rule 8 of the Matrimonial Causes (Amendment) Rules (SI 1984 No 1511).

Rule 76A, dealing with the procedure to be followed on applications for consent orders for *financial relief*, laid down a procedure including the lodging of a statement containing the kind of information that the court needed to have before making an order in accordance with the revised criteria contained in the new section 25 *substituted for the original section* 25 of the 1973 Act by section 3 of the 1984 Act.

It must not be thought, however, that those further provisions altered in any way at all the basic principle of the need for full and frank disclosure by the parties before a consent order was made.

The form of the consent order made *in the present case was open* to a number of criticisms. When a consent order was drafted, it was *essential that all its terms should* come clearly within the court's powers conferred on it by sections 23 and 24 of the 1973 Act.

In the present case there were several terms that were not within those powers. The proper procedure for incorporating such other obligations into a consent order was by formulating them as undertak*ings given to the court*. Such undertakings were enforceable as effectively as direct orders.

His Lordship would end with an emphatic word of warning. It was not every failure of frank and full *disclosure that would justify a court* in setting aside an order of the kind concerned in the present appeal.

On the contrary, it would only be in cases when the absence of full and frank disclosure had led to the court making, either in contested proceedings or by consent, an order that was substantially different from the order that it would have made if *such disclosure had taken place that* a case for setting aside could possibly be made good.

Parties who applied to set aside orders on the ground of failure to disclose some relatively minor matter or matters, the disclosure of which would not have made any substantial difference to the order that the court would have made or approved, were *likely to find their* applications being summarily dismissed, with costs against them or, *if they are legally aided, against the* legal aid fund.

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Scarman, Lord Keith and Lord Bridge agreed.

Solicitors: Gregory Rowcliffe & Co for G & I Chisholm, Bodmin; Bower Cotton & Bower for Bond Pearce, Liskeard.

Compassion in not deporting to be personal

Regina v Immigration Appeal Tribunal, Ex parte Bakhtaur Singh

Before Lord Justice Stephenson, Lord Justice Fox and Lord Justice Purchas

[Judgment delivered December 11]

Parliament had not thought it *desirable that the Home Secretary* should have a general power to deport at his discretion under the Immigration Act 1971 but had specified certain cases where it had thought it to be in the public interest that a person should be liable to deportation. But even in those cases paragraph 154 of the *Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules*, (HC 66 (1982)) had *indicated* a further protection, namely, a balancing of the public interest with the *compassionate circumstances* of the case.

The Court of Appeal, in a reserved judgment, *allowed an* appeal by the Immigration Appeal Tribunal against an order of Mr Justice Hodgson dated March 2, 1984, that a decision of the tribunal refusing the applicant, Mr Bakhtaur Singh leave to appeal against the decision of Mr D. Parkes, an adjudicator, dated May 3, 1983, should be quashed and be rescinded.

Mr John Laws for the tribunal; Miss Frances Webber for the applicant.

LORD JUSTICE FOX, giving the judgment of the court, said that the applicant was described as "a priest/musician". He was a Sikh and an Indian citizen aged about 34 years. He came to this country in *September 1979 with a work permit* for employment as a member of an Indian folk music group. He was given permission to remain until November 30.

Early in November 1979 he made application to stay for a further three months as a visitor; almost immediately afterwards he applied for a further six-month stay as a music teacher and priest. Those applications were both rejected.

In June 1982, the applicant was arrested and charged with overstaying. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to two months' imprison*ment; in addition a recommen*dation was made for his deportation. He appealed to the crown court. The recommendation was quashed.

On October 4 the applicant was informed, through a member of Parliament, that he should leave without delay. He did not do so. The Home Secretary therefore *decided to deport him under section* 3 (5)(a) of the Immigration Act 1971.

Notice of that decision was given to the applicant on February 1, 1983. He appealed to an adjudicator; and that appeal was dismissed. The applicant then sought leave to appeal to the Immigration Appeal Tribunal. The tribunal refused leave. In the present proceedings the applicant sought judicial review of those two *decisions.*

The adjudicator took the view that the loss to the Sikh community *of the religious and musical services* which the applicant rendered to that community was not proper to be *taken* into account by him and in particular did not constitute "compassionate circumstances of the case" within paragraph 154 of HC 66. In reaching that conclusion the adjudicator followed Mr Justice Forbes's decision in *R v Immigration Appeal Tribunal, Ex parte Sohal* ([1981] Imm AR 20).

In the context of the document *itself and the statute*, the words "public interest" could only be referred to in paragraph 154 as the public interest in favour of deportation and as excluding any considerations of public interest which might be against deportation.

Furthermore, the "compassionate circumstances" referred to in paragraph 154 were those of a personal nature relating to the impact of the departure upon the applicant himself which aroused *compassion.*

It was the personal situation of the applicant himself that one was concerned with. Thus, in paragraph 156 (dealing with recommendations for deportation by a court) the listed circumstances were all essentially personal to the applicant: see *R v Immigration Appeal Tribunal, Ex parte Patel* (*The Times*, February 15, 1984).

The result was that *Sohal's* case as interpreted by Mr Justice Woolf in *Patel's* case was rightly decided and that accordingly the adjudicator in the present case did not misdirect himself in law.

Solicitors: Treasury *Solicitor*; Laxman.

Club capable of being assessed to gains and development tax

Worthing Rugby Football Club Trustees v Inland Revenue Commissioners

Before Mr Justice Peter Gibson

[Judgment delivered December 6]

A club, an unincorporated body and incapable of owning property, was nevertheless an entity of assessment both for corporation tax and development land tax purposes. Assessments made on Worthing Rugby Football Club to the two taxes in respect of gains accruing from the sale by it of development land were valid assessments and the special commissioners had been wrong in law to discharge them.

Mr Justice Peter Gibson so held in the Chancery Division when dismissing appeals by the trustees of the club and allowing cross appeals by the Crown from determinations by the commissioners that had discharged all the assessments on the club but had upheld alternative *assessments to the tax made on the* club's trustees.

The club was founded as an *unincorporated members' club in* 1920. In 1926 it had acquired freehold land at West Worthing for use as its ground and headquarters. The club trustees were registered as the proprietors of the land which they held subject to club rules.

In 1977 5½ acres of the land were sold for £171,500 and the next year three-fifths of an acre were sold for £26,000. Consequent on those sales the club was assessed to development land tax for its financial year to March 1978 of £133,058 and for the following year of £12,813. Alternative assessments to the tax for those periods were also made on the trustees.

Additionally the Club was assessed to corporation tax in respect of chargeable gains for its accounting period to April 30, 1978 of £35,700 and for its accounting period to April 30, 1979 of £14,300. Alternative assessements were *likewise made on the trustees.*

The trustees appealed to the commissioners against all the *assessments. They argued that tax* liability attached only to the individual members of the club at the relevant dates with the result that no tax was chargeable because of the exemptions given by the Development Land Tax Act 1976 and *by the Finance Act 1965 to* which each member was entitled.

The commissioners, while accept*ing that the assessments on the club* had to be discharged, rejected the contention that liability attached only to the members. The trustees, they decided, did not hold the land as bare trustees for the members: those members were not "persons absolutely entitled as against the trustees" for the purposes of either section 28(1) of the 1976 Act or section 22(5) of the 1965 Act. The result was, they held, that the trustees were the person properly chargeable to the taxes. Both parties *appealed.*

Mr Philip Lawton, QC and Mr Edward Grayson for the trustees; *Mr Robert Carnwath for the Crown.*

MR JUSTICE PETER GIBSON said that there was no doubt that apart from statute an unincorporated association like a club was not a legal entity. Club property was vested in trustees *for its members* whose rights and obligations were governed by the contract, usually *the club's rules*, which they entered on becoming members.

But the appeals were concerned *not as much with the general law as* with statutory provisions. By sections 238 and 526(5) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970, corporation tax was charged on gains accruing to unincorporated associations. By section 22(5) of the Finance Act 1965 where assets were held by a person as trustee for another person or persons absolutely entitled as against the trustee, the assets were to be treated as being vested in such person or persons.

The Crown argued that the club, having a separate existence for corporation tax purposes, was *chargeable to that tax on the gains* because it was "a person absolutely entitled as against the trustees" to the assets disposed of. Mr Lawton did not deny that a club could be chargeable to corporation tax but argued that to come within section 22(5) *the club would have to be an* entity which under the general law was capable of acquiring, owning and disposing of property.

Mr Lawton's argument was unacceptable. By virtue of section 19 of the Interpretation Act 1889 a "person" in section 22(5) included any "body of persons corporate or unincorporate". Thus an unincorporated association was to be treated as a person that could dispose of assets including land. That was entirely in accordance with the treatment of an unincorporated association as an entity of assessment for income tax and corporation tax purposes.

Accordingly the Crown's argument on section 22(5) being correct, *the commissioners' determination* on the capital gains part of the appeal had to be reversed.

*By section 4(2) of the Develop*ment Land Tax Act 1976 the person chargeable to the tax imposed on the realization of the development value of land was "the person making the disposal". And by section 28 where an interest in land was held on a trust for a person absolutely entitled as against the trustee that interest was to be treated *as if it were vested in the* person so entitled.

The Crown's case again was that *the provisions of the Interpretation* Act applied so that "person" in section 28 included an unincorporated *body of persons unless* a contrary intention appeared. Having already found that, notwithstanding its incapacity to hold property, an unincorporated association was an entity of assessment for certain tax purposes, his Lordship concluded that it was to be treated as an entity for development land tax purposes as well. It followed that *the Crown's appeal in relation to the* development land tax assessment was also allowed. All the assessments against the trustees were discharged.

Solicitors: Miller Parris, Worthing; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Adjournment of access case is appealable

Regina v Slough Justices, Ex parte B

The decision of justices to adjourn *sine die* the hearing of the parents' application for access to their son under the provisions of section 12C of the Child Care Act 1980 was appealable to the Divisional Court of the Family Division. It was not appropriate to seek judicial review and an order for certiorari directing the justices to *hear the parents' application*, Mr Justice Wood sitting as an additional judge in the Queen's Bench Division stated on December 13 when dismissing an application for judicial review.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the boy, aged 2½, was in care under section 1 of the Children and Young *Persons Act 1969 following* the making of a place of safety order.

The local authority had written to the parents stopping access and stating that it was the intention to apply to the High Court for leave to *place the child for adoption.*

The parents' summons under the 1980 Act and the local authority's *application to the High Court had* been made on July 17, 1984. The local authority had asked for the parents' application to be adjourned generally because of their High Court application.

By an appeal from the decision of the justices to adjourn, both sets of proceedings would be in the control of the High Court.

PERSONAL COLUMNS

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS and IN MEMORIAM £4.00 a line (minimum 3 lines)

Announcements authenticated by the name and permanent address of the sender, may be sent to:

THE TIMES
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FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES, WEDDINGS, etc, on Court and Social Page, £6 a line.

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Most other classified advertisements can be accepted by telephone. The deadline is 5.00pm 2 days prior to publication (i.e. 5.00 pm Monday for Wednesday). Should you wish to send an advertisement in writing please include your daytime 'phone number.

IN THE BEGINNING was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. St John 1:1.

BIRTHS

AGNEW – On December 13th at the Middlesex Hospital W1 to Anna (née Pepys) and Bob, a son.

BOYCOTT – On December 11th at The Royal Free Hospital, London to Michelle and Peter, a daughter, Rosalind Elizabeth Marie.

BROOMFIELD on December 10 to Lucy and James, a son (Rory Alexander James), a brother for Rupert and Primmie.

DAVIES – on December 7th to Prudence and Howard, a son, George Alexander.

DERRY/JACKSON. On December 11th in Toronto, to Trisha Jackson, wife of Ramsay Derry, a son, Alexander.

ELTON – On December 13th to Jane (née Jenkins) and David, a son (Charles David Miles).

HARRISON. On November 26th to Rosalind (nee Murcell) and Tony, a daughter, Penelope Megan Joyce, a sister for Bronwen.

LOADER – On December 9th to Barbara and David a son Jack, a brother for Alexander.

POORE – on December 4th to Alison (née Boughton) and Andrew – a daughter (Hannah Jane).

POUND. On December 13th at Canterbury, to Nicky (nee Henshaw) and Anthony, a son, George Dudley.

WEBBER. On 11th December at Queen Charlotte's Hospital to Pepita (née Malet) and Michael, a son, Thomas Edward O'Kelly, a brother for Jessica.

WINTER ON December 5th, at Wythenshawe Hospital, to Patricia (née Sellers) and Marcus, a daughter, Rebecca Jane.

BIRTHDAYS

LOUIS TOWB – Happy Birthday to a much loved Octogenarian Extraordinaire. H.D. et al.

MARRIAGES

WELLS-MAYFIELD on Friday 30th November 1984, Peter Wells to Lynn Mayfield in London.

RUBY WEDDING

DIEBEN-HODGSON. – On December 16th, 1944 in Bromley. Every happiness mother and father on your 40th Wedding Anniversary from Robert, Bridget, Nigel and families.

DEATHS

ASHE – On December 13th 1984, peacefully in her 96th year, the Hon Estelle E. S. Ashe, of Charlbury, Oxfordshire, widow of Wellesley. St George, dearly loved mother of Leigh, Norman, Michael, John and Paddy, a much loved grandmother and greatgrandmother. Service at 11 am, St Mary's Church, Charlbury, Tuesday, December 18th. Cremation private.

BACKER – JEAN RADCLIFFE, peacefully at Benenden on 14th December aged 75, after much suffering borne with faith and dignity and courage. Beloved mother of Anne and widow of Gordon. Requiem at St. Marks Church, Surbiton, Surrey at 10am on Friday 21st December, followed by burial at Holy Trinity Church, Claygate. Family flowers only please.

BAINES, Guy Harrison – peacefully on December 13th, dearest husband of Jane, loving father and grandfather. Funeral service St. Bartholomew, Tardebigge, Wednesday, December 19th at 2.15 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired payable to Special Trustees (former UBH–Baines) 46 Edgbaston Park Road, Birmingham B15 2RU.

BANNISTER – on December 13th 1984 Dorothy Blanche, dearly loved wife of the late Harry Bannister. Funeral service at Holy Trinity Church, Cowling on Wednesday 19th December at 11am Family flowers only please. If desired, donations to Cowling Parish Church. Enquiries Tel. (0535) 33488.

DEWHURST. Suddenly on December 10th 1984 Kenneth Eastham T.D., M.D.Phil., F.R.C. PSYCH., D.P.M. aged 66 years of Sandford-on-Thames, Oxon. Funeral Service at the parish church of St Andrew, Sandford-on-Thames on Tuesday December 18th at 2.00 p.m. Flowers may be sent to Reeves & Fain, 288 Abingdon Road, Oxford.

DIXON – On December 13th, peacefully at St Cecilia Nursing Home, Budleigh Salterton after a long illness bravely borne, Doris Stella, beloved wife of the late George Edward Brittain Dixon, dearly loved mother of Stella and grandmother of Julia, Frances and Caroline. Funeral service and cremation took place together with her husband Friday December 14th.

EATON, CORAH (Hamilton), on December 11, after a long illness bravely borne. Jamaican artist, beloved wife of Cal and mother of Judy, Maurice and Ann. Funeral service at Christ Church, Purley on Wednesday December 19 at 2pm prior to committal at Godstone Burial Ground. Flowers and enquires to Ebbutt Funeral Service, 39 High Street, Croydon. Tel 688 5555.

HAWKINS – On December 12th, suddenly at his home, Colin Warwick, aged 44, beloved husband of Shirley and much loved father of Tara and Scott. Cremation at the West Herts Crematorium, Garston, on Tuesday, December 18th, at 12 noon. No flowers please. Donations, if desired, to the British Heart Foundation, c/o G Hall & Sons, Hemel Hempstead 52395.

HITCHINS – on December 13th 1984 at his home Kilhallon House, Par Frederick beloved husband of Muriel devoted father of John, Gillian and Mark. Father-in-law of Stephanie and Peter, grandfather of James. Funeral service Monday 17th December 11am at St. Andrews Church, Tywardreath, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to The MacMillan Nursing Service c/o Mr Mallett, Barclays Bank, Church Street, St. Austell.

HODGES. On 12th December 1984, after a brave fight and peacefully, Emma, widow of John, mother of Timothy and Anthony, beta of Robert. No one who knew her will forget her. Funeral at St Mary's Parish Church, Stanwell, on Tuesday December 18, at 2.30 pm. Family flowers, donations to Cancer Research.

JENKINS – on 12th December, 1984, peacefully in hospital, John Garton Jenkins aged 70 years, of 1 Carlton Crescent, Tunbridge Wells. The much loved husband of Geraldine and father of Robert, Paul, and Catherine. Requiem mass at the Church of St Thomas of Canterbury, Mayfield, Sussex on Thursday 20th December at 11 am. Flowers or if prefered donations to The British Heart Foundation, may be sent, c/o J Kempster & Sons, 2-4 Albion Road, Tunbridge Wells (Tel: 0892 23131).

KER, Norah, adored wife of Allan, mother of Diana Bagshot, peacefully in Nairobi, Kenya, on 13th December, following a long illness courageously borne. No flowers, donations to Cancer Research.

LEECHMAN – Barclay CMG, OBE, on December 13th beloved husband of Grace formerly of Tanzania, peacefully at his home in Rondebosch Cape, South Africa.

LEWIN-HARRIS. On December 13, aged 86, suddenly and peacefully at home, Colonel Carrique Edgar Lewin-Harris, OBE, DL, late DCLI, beloved father of Michael and much loved stepfather of Christopher Thomas-Everard and Merrilyn Sawrey-Cookson. Funeral at Kingston, St Mary, Thursday December 20, at 2.45 pm. Family flowers only, but donations may be sent to the order of St John, St John House, Staplegrove Road, Taunton.

MARRINER – on December 13th 1984 at a Jersey nursing home, after a long illness courageously borne, John Stuart Marriner, of Yacht "Morning Watch". Funeral details to be announced later. Enquiries to C. E. Croad Ltd. Funeral Directors tel Jersey 33330.

MELLOR – On December 6th, 1984, peacefully at St Richards Hospital, Chichester, Winifred Muriel, aged 82. Memorial service on Tuesday 18th December, at St Mary's Church, Felpham, West Sussex. No flowers. Donations, if desired to British Heart Foundation.

MILLER – on Wednesday December 12th peacefully, Commander Philip Miller M.A. (Cantab) M.I.E.E. Royal Navy, retired of Curdridge Hill, Curdridge, Hampshire. Greatly loved husband of Noeline and dear father of Penny and Nicholas, also grandfather. Funeral Wednesday December 19th at 11am at St. Peters Church, Curdridge. No flowers, cremation private. Donations, if desired to the Countess Mountbatten House, West End, Southampton.

NORTHEY, Mark Adrian of cancer, aged 40 years. Loved of Linnet, George, Elizabeth and Ninny, Frances, Christopher, Rosemary and their families, and Victor. Darling daddy of Adrian and Weetie. Sometime Captain 15th/19th K.R.H. Requiem Mass at The Catholic Church, Windsor on December 18th at 9.30 am followed by cremation. Requiem Mass at The Catholic Church, Launceston, Friday January 4th at 11am.

SOMMERFELD – K J (John) at home in bed 12th December, beloved husband of Lilian, loving father of Paul and Felicity much loved by his three grandchildren. If desired, donations please to National Society for Cancer Relief.

SPIERS – John Rossbeck (Squadron Leader Retired). Suddenly on Wednesday night December 12th at home in Kidwelly aged 62. Beloved husband of Ruth and adored father of Fiona and Marion. Much loved father-in-law of Frank and Geoff. Funeral and interment on Saturday December 15th at noon, St Mary's Church, Kidwelly, Dyfed. Enquiries William Beynon Funeral Directors, Kidwelly, 0554 890218.

THOMSON-MOORE – On Dec 12, Rodney, Commander, DSO, RN (Rtd), beloved husband of Alex and father of Rosemary Collin and the late Tavish. Cremation West London Crematorium, 4.15pm, Monday, 17 Dec.

TUNNARD-MOORE – On December 13th, at his home 17 Hauteville, St Peter Port, Guernsey, after a long illness borne with courage and humour, Thomas Charles Poynder, much loved husband of Valerie and loved father of the late Thomas Christopher. Son of the late Thomas and Elizabeth Tunnard-Moore of Frampton Hall, Lincs. Funeral Tuesday December 18th at 2.00 pm at The Castel Church, Guernsey. Followed by cremation. Flowers to the church or if preferred donations to the Church c/o The Rector.

WARD – on Thursday 13th Dec. peacefully at Moorhouse Nursing Home, Hindhead Moll, sister of Bill Robbins. Funeral at Guildford crematorium on 17th Dec at 3 pm.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

GLAZIER – A Memorial Service for Maxwell Glazier T.D., formerly managing director, Herbert Johnson Ltd, Past Master The Bowyers Company, Past President Queen Victoria's Rifles Association and one-time chairman the Royal Green Jackets London Club, at St George's Church, Hanover Square, W1, on Friday, January 11th, 1985 at 11 am.

IN MEMORIAM

COWARD, Sir NOEL. – Remembered with love always and especially on his birthday, December 16th. Joyce, Graham and Joan.

MELLALIEU – Yvonne, sadly remembering our dear daughter tragically taken from us December 16th, 1980, aged 18.

MONIER-WILLIAMS – Angela lovingly remembered by all her family.

POWER – In memory of Sir William Power, K.C.B. born Dec 15, 1842 died July 28, 1916.

WEBB, Frederick Joseph Charles, Dearly loved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TO LOOK TO THE FUTURE, Young blind people need your help! Donations, Covenants or Legacies will provide the latest facilities essential to enable our 200 students to train for open employment. The Royal National College for the Blind, (Patrons: The Queen and The Prince of Wales) is the specialist College of Further Education for the visually handicapped. Details from the Appeal Secretary, RNC, College Road, Hereford HR1 1EB.

VICKERS, Thomas aged 74 years of the City Mission, Granville St, Birmingham. Would any friends or relatives of the above deceased please contact the Registration Officer at The General Hospital, Steelhouse Lane, Birmingham or telephone 021 236 8611 extension 221 between the hours of 9 am to 4 pm, Monday to Friday.

UNWANTED DOGS Christmas Dinner Fund, please send a donation to Great Britain's largest non destruction sanctuary. Pine Ridge Dog Sanctuary (Registered Charity). Priory Road, Ascot, Berkshire.

MISS NOEL HUNNYBUN now at Forde Park Nursing Home, Newton Abbot, Devon, wishes all her friends a very Happy Christmas.

GREAT SERMON HANDICAP. Rerun, 1st Leeds Parish, 2nd Immaculate Heart, 3rd Saint Edmund's.

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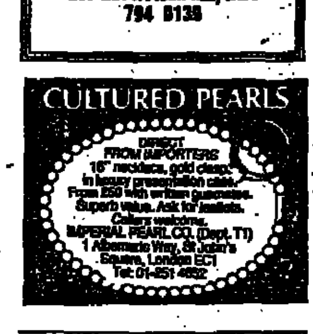
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SWEDISH GIRL, 19, non smoker, seeks au pair job in London. Box No. 0166 L The Times.

SUNDAY'S RADIO

From the facing page

Radio 1

On medium wave. †also VHF stereo. News on the half hour until 11.30 am, then 2.30 pm, 3.30, 5.00, 7.30, 9.30 am and 12 midnight. 5.55 Radio 1 Chip Shop Basicode 2 + Computer Program. 6.00 Mark Page. 8.00 Peter Powell. *10.00* Steve Wright 12.30 Jimmy Savile's 'Old Record' Club (1971 and 1983). 2.30 Adrian Juste. 4.00 Hitsville USA. The story of Motown. (Part 7). 5.00 Top 40 with Richard Skinner.† 7.00 Anne Nightingale.† 9.00 Robbie Vincent.† 11.00-12.00 Gary Byrd's Sweet *Inspirations.*† VHF Radios 1 & 2. 4.00 am With Radio 2. 5.00 pm With Radio 1. 12.00-4.00 am With Radio 2.

Radio 2

On medium wave. †also VHF stereo. News on the hour (except 8.00 pm). Headlines 7.30 am. 4.00 am John Turnerfincl. 5.02 Cricket. 6.00 George Fergusonfincl. 6.02, 7.02 Cricket. 7.30 Paul McDowallfincl. 7.45 Pam Egan's Advent Crown. 9.00 David Jacobsfincl. 9.02, 10.02 Cricket. 11.00 Desmond Carringtonfincl. 11.02, 12.02 Cricket. 12.30pm The Random Jottings of Hinge and Bracket.† 1.00 Jimmy Young Presents Two's Best.† 2.00 Benny Green.† 3.00 Alan Dell.† 4.00 String Sound† 4.30 Sing Something Simple.† 5.00 Charlie Chester, including 6.02 Sports Desk. 6.30 Brain of Sport. 7.00 Vernon and Maryetta Midgley. 7.30 Glamorous Nights. 8.30 Sunday Half-hour from Holy Trinity Parish Church, Banbridge, Co Down. 9.00 Your Hundred Best Tunes, incl. 10.02 Sports Desk. 10.05 Songs from the Shows. 10.45 William Davis at the piano. 11.00 Sounds of Jazz. 1.00 am Nightride.† 3.00-4.00 Two's Best.

SUNDAY'S WORLD SERVICE

6.00 Newsdesk 7.00 World News 7.09 Twenty-Four Hours 7.30 From Our Own Correspondent 7.50 Letter From London 8.00 World News 8.09 Reflections 8.15 The Pleasure's Yours 9.00 World News 9.09 Review Of The British Press 9.15 Sports Review 9.45 Places Of Hope 10.00 News Summary 10.01 Short Story 10.15 Classical Record Review 10.30 Sunday Service 11.00 World News 11.09 News About Britain 11.15 From Our Own Correspondent 12.00 News Summary 12.01 Play Of The Week: Saint Joan 1.00 World News 1.09 Twenty Four Hours 1.30 Nineteen Eighty-Four 1.45 The Sandi Jones Request Show 2.00 News Summary 2.30 Wives And Daughters 3.00 Radio Newsreel 3.15 Concert Hall 4.00 World News 4.09 Commentary 4.15 Gold Fever 4.45 Letter From America 5.00 World News 5.09 Meridian 8.00 World News 8.15 The Pleasure's Yours 10.00 World News 10.09 Not So Much A Hobby 10.25 Words 10.30 Financial Review 10.40 Reflections 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 World News 11.09 Commentary 11.15 Letter From America 11.30 Plato To Nato 12.00 World News 12.09 News About Britain 12.15 Radio Newsreel 12.30 Religious Service 1.00 News Summary 1.01 Glenn Miller – A String Of Pearls 1.45 The Classical Guitar 2.00 World News 2.09 Review Of The British Press 2.15 Good Books 2.30 Music Now 3.00 World News 3.09 News About Britain 3.15 Readings From Samuel Johnson 3.30 Anything Goes 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Gemini To Jo'Burg 5.45 Recording Of The Week

All times in GMT

Saturday

Television and radio programmes

Summaries: Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

BBC 1

8.30 The Perishers (r) 8.35 The Littlest Hobo (r). 9.00 Saturday SuperStore managed by Mike Reid. Cartoon, pop music and Jokes wityh guests who include Paul Young, Delia Smith, Gyles Brandreth, Kim Wilde and *Norris McWhirter. Keith Harris* and Orville will be answering viewers' telephone calls 12.12 Weather from Ian McCaskill.

12.15 Grandstand introduced by Desmond Lynham. The line-up is: 12.15 Football Focus with Bob Wilson; 12.45, 1.15 and 1.50 Racing from Ascot; 1.00 News; *1.05 Boxing* Harry Carpenter with highlights from last night's bill at the Wembley Conference Centre; 1.30 Skiing: from Val Gardena; 2.10 Rugby Union: The Barbarians against the Australians at Cardiff Arms Park. Full coverage; 3.50 Football half-time scores and *reports*; 3.55 International Show Jumping: the Olympia International Championship from the Grand Hall, Olympia; *4.15* Athletics: the Rank Xerox/IAC Cross Country International at Chantry Park, Ipswich; 4.40 Final score.

5.05 News with Jan Leeming 5.15 *Sport/Regional news.*

5.20 Superdance 84 presented by Gary Davies. A disco dancing competition featuring members of the National Association of Youth Clubs.

5.55 The Noel Edmonds Late Late Breakfast Show with the emphasis on magic, mystery and *illusion.*

6.45 Film: Carry On .. Don't Lose Your Head (1967) starring Sid James and Jim Dale as the two aristocratic Englishmen. dedicated to saving their Parisian counterparts threatened by the French Revolution. Directed by Gerald Thomas.

8.15 Dynasty. Such is the way of the world that Kirby, having been raped by Adam, decides to divorce Jeff in order that she can be free to marry Adam. Is she losing her grip? Meanwhile, Krystle receives a disturbing telephone call and Claudia is the victim of a cruel *practical joke (Ceefax).*

9.05 Wogan. Terry Wogan's guests this week are Charles Dance, Dr Miriam Stoppard, Frankie Goes to Hollywood and Marti Caine.

9.55 News and Sport. With Jan Leeming.

10.10 *Match of the Day Special.* Jimmy Hill presents highlights from two of this afternoon's First Division matches; and David Vine is at the International Show Jumping at Olympia for the Radio Rentals Puissance.

11.50 Film: Ulzana's Raid (1972) *starring Burt Lancaster and* Bruce Davison as, respectively, McIntosh, an ageing scout and Garnett DeBuin, an idealistic young cavalry officer on the trail of a band of renegade Apaches led by the fearless Ulzana, who have broken out of an Indian reservation and embarked on an orgy of murder and torture. Directed by Robert Aldrich.

1.30 Weather.

TV-am

6.00 Good Morning Britain, presented by Henry Kelly begins with a final look at the Greene's dream home. News at 6.25, 7.00 and 8.00; Christmas cooking advice from Rustie Lee at 8.30; sport at 7.10. The guests are Ralph *McTell, Dave Brennon and Lon* Satton.

8.30 The Wide Awake Club for young people.

ITV/LONDON

9.25 *Cartoon Time.* 9.30 Fraggle Rock (r). 10.00 The Saturday Starship. Cartoons, pop videos and guests, presented by Bonnie Langford, Tommy Boyd and Nigel Roberts. 11.20 Space 1999: The Rules of Luton. Science fiction adventures starring Martin Landau and Barbara Bain (r).

12.15 World of Sport introduced by Jim Rosenthal. The line-up is: 12.20 World Cup Ski-ing: the Men's Downhill from Val Gardena; 12.35 Boxing: Gomez v Nelson; Cooney v Chaplin; 12.45 News; 12.50 On the Ball with Jimmy Greaves and Ian St John; 1.20, 1.55 Wrestling. from Aylesbury; *1.40, 2.10 and 2.45 Racing* from Doncaster; 2.25, 3.00 and 4.00 Snooker: the second *semi-final of the Hofmeister* World Doubles Championship; *3.45 Football half-times and* reports 4.45 Results.

5.00 News and sport.

5.05 Candid Camera. More unsuspecting citizens are *made to look foolish.*

5.35 Blockbusters. General knowledge quiz for teenagers, *presented by* Bob Holness.

6.05 The A-Team. The *resourceful* quartet find themselves caught between a rapacious record company, a singing group and a school's top football player.

7.00 Tarby and Friends. *Jimmy* Tarbuck's guests are Russ Abbot, Phyllis Diller, Bobby Davro, Billy Eckstine and Julian Lennon.

7.45 Punchlines. Celebrity panel game, presented by Lennie Bennett.

8.15 3-2-1. Couples from Stockport, Oxford and Yorkshire compete in a quiz and a game. Plus song, dance, comedy and magic from guests who include Brendan Shine. Presented by Ted Rogers.

9.15 News and sport.

9.30 Snooker: The Hofmeister World Doubles Championship. Dickie Davies introduces the closing session of the best-of-17 semifinal. The commentators at the Derngate Centre, Northampton are John Pulman, Dennis Taylor, Rex Williams, Ray Edmonds and *Mark Wildman.*

12.15 London news headlines followed by Bellamy. The policeman is on the trail of a bomber who murdered his landlady when she discovered his cache of explosives. As Bellamy closes in on his quarry the risk to his own life increases.

1.00 Night Thoughts from Dr Sheila Cassidy.

Maria Ewing as Poppea and Dennis Bailey as Nerone in L'Incoronazione di Poppea (BBC 2, at 8.15, Radio 3 at 8.10)

BBC 2

9.00 Ceefax.

10.10 Open University: Manufacturing with Polymers. *10.35 Open Lecture: Dr John* Horlock, vice-chancellor of the OU. 11.25 Robotics: Making Sense of Uncertainty. 11.50 Caring for Older People: Voluntary Workers. 12.15 Fluid Mechanics. 12.40 Farmers Summing Up. 1.05 Ceefax.

3.25 Film: Sun Valley Serenade* (1941) starring Glenn Miller and Sonja Henie. *Musical* romance set in the winter sports resort of Sun Valley. Directed by Milton Sperling.

4.45 Film: The Forbin Project (1969) starring Eric Braeden, Susan Clark and Gordon Pinsent. Science fiction thriller about a computer who uses its almost limitless knowledge to thwart man at every turn. Directed by Joseph Sargent.

6.25 The Sky at Night. In Forgotten Constellations Patrick Moore examines old star maps and tells the stories of old groups of stars that have long been forgotten by astronomers (r).

6.45 A vous la France! Lesson ten *of the 15-part French* conversation course for beginners (r).

7.10 News and Sport.

7.25 Rugby Special. Nigel Starmer-Smith with highlights from this afternoon's game at Cardiff Arms Park between the Barbarians and the Australians – the last game of the Australians' tour.

8.15 The Saturday Alternative: L'Incoronazione di Poppea. Glyndebourne production of Claudio Monteverdi's opera in two acts and a prologue, directed by Sir Peter Hall who, in his introduction, describes the work as one of the very few operas in which 'goodness fails and vice is rewarded'. Starring soprano Maria Ewing (Lady Hall) as Poppea and Dennis Bailey as Nerone, Emperor of Rome, with the Glyndebourne Chorus and the London Philharmonic Orchestra. Interval at 9.50.

10.55 *Film: Leap into the Void* (1980) starring Michele Piccoli, Anouk Aimee and Michele Placido. A claustrophobic tale of a brother and sister who live in a Rome apartment. The woman's sadness and depressions leads to her brother believing she is insane and would be better off dead. Directed by Marco Bellocchio. (English subtitles) Ends at 12.55.

CHANNEL 4

1.00 Making the Most Of ...

1.25 Chips' Comic.

1.55 Film: Transatlantic Merry-Go-Round* (1934) starring Jack Benny. Musical comedy about the intertwined lives of passengers on a cruise liner. Directed by Benjamin Stoloff.

3.40 Film: The Horn Blows at Midnight* (1945) starring Jack Benny as an angel who is sent down to Earth to herald the end of the world. Directed by Raoul Walsh.

5.05 Brookside (r).

6.00 Danger Man* Secret Service man John Drake investigates the reasons why 'planes belonging to an air transport company in the Far East keep crashing.

6.30 Rock 'n America. Video clips.

7.00 News summary and weather followed by 7 Days. Robert Kee and Ann Loades interview the Bishop of Durham, and John Roberts, general secretary of the Lord's Day Observance Society, on the findings of the Gallup poll on the state of the Church of England; and a member of the NCCL explains why the organisation believes there should be an enquiry into police picket line tactics.

7.30 Film: The Bespoke Overcoat* (1955) starring David Kossof and Alfie Bass. An Oscar-winning short about a Jewish clerk who returns from the *grave to claim a coat which he* thinks is rightfully his. Directed by Jack Clayton.

8.00 The Sonnets of William Shakespeare. Michael Bryant performs Sonnet 91; Sir Roy Strong speculates on its meaning.

8.15 Muck and Brass. The final *episode in the series finds* Craig on the brink of success.

9.15 Twenty Twenty Vision: Child Sex Abuse. The story of Keith, recently convicted of sexually assaulting a 10-year old girl.

10.00 Hill Street Blues. A callous teenaged murderer has been released and the precinct officers are to keep a special eye on him.

11.00 Pushing Up Daisies. Topical comedy sketches.

11.35 Film: Homicidal* (1961) Horror tale of a house occupied by a murdering maniac, a frightened, paralysed old lady and an odd *young man. Directed by* William Castle.

1.05 Closedown.

Radio 4

On long wave. † stereo on VHF.

5.55 Shipping.
6.00 News Briefing; Weather.
6.10 Prelude.†
6.30 News; Farming Today.
6.50 Prayer. 6.55 Weather; Travel.
7.00 News. 7.10 Today's Papers. 7.15 On Your Farm. 7.45 In Perspective. 7.50 Down To Earth. 7.55 Weather; Travel.
8.00 News. 8.10 Today's Papers.
8.15 Sport on 4.
8.48 Yesterday in Parliament. 8.57 Weather; Travel. 9.00 News.
9.05 Checkpoint. With Roger Cook.
9.30 Profile. Jack Higgins talks about his late development as a writer.
9.50 News Stand. David Willis's review of the weekly magazines.
10.05 The Week in Westminster. With Peter Riddell.
10.30 Pick of the Week. With Margaret Howard (r).†
11.30 *From Our Own Correspondent.*
12.00 News; Money Box. With Louise Botting.
12.27 The News Quiz. With Simon Hoggart, Alan Coren, Geoffrey Dickinson and Jim Naughtie. 12.55 Weather.
1.00 News.
1.10 Any Questions? 1.55 Shipping.
2.00 News; The Afternoon Play 'The Journal of Vasilije Bogdanovic' by *Alan Plater.* Football story, about a Yugoslavian international playing for an English club. With Sandor Eles.†
3.00 News; The Burkiss Way (Lesson 46).†
3.30 Of Ice and Men: The Story of the British Antarctic Survey. With Sir Vivian Fuchs (2).
4.15 The Chip Shop. New technology and its impact. With Barry Norman.
4.45 Keep Your Tails Up. A modern day Canterbury Tale, with Vincent Kane.
5.00 Wildlife.
5.25 Week Ending. Satirical review.†
6.00 News; Sports Round-up.
6.25 Desert Island Discs. The castaway is Ray Cooney, Artistic Director of the Theatre of Comedy.
7.05 *Stop the Week with Robert* Robinson. Music by Peter Skellern.†
7.45 Baker's Dozen. Richard Baker with records.
8.30 Saturday-Night Theatre 'Ride a Red Pony' by Angela Sewell. With Anne Rosenfield, John Church, Jill Balcon, Jack May. Drama, set in 15th century Spain. It is the story of Juana La Loca (Joan the Mad), the Infanta of Spain. It was her strange illness that drove *her mad, and she was deprived of* her rightful inheritance. †
10.00 News.
10.15 You the Jury. The motion: The Church of England should be disestablished. With Eric Heffer and John Selwyn Gummer. The chairman: Dick Taverne.
11.00 Evening Service. Calendar: David and Goliath.†
11.15 Great Liners. Recollections of the days when *the big ships used* Southampton. (3).
11.30 Son of Cliché.†
12.00 News; Weather. 12.33 Shipping Forecast.

VHF (available in England and S. Wales only) Radio 4-vhf as above, except: 5.55-6.00am Weather; Travel. 1.55-2.00pm Programme News. 5.50-5.55 Programme News.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather. 7.00 News.
7.05 Aubade: Handel's (arr Beecham) Arrival of Queen of Sheba; Eccle's Sonata in A minor (Milne/Russell); Beethoven's Ah! perfido (Schwarzkopf); Chausson's Quelques Danses (Doyen, piano); Schumann's Konzert stuck for four horns and orchestra; Donizetti's Concertino in G (Holliger, cor anglais); Chadwick's Symphonic Sketches; Salzedo's Divertimento for Brass Sextet. 9.00 News.
9.05 Record Review: Geoffrey Norris compares recordings of Shostakovich's Piano Quintet. And Barry Fox on the expense of running a CD system.†
10.15 Stereo Release: *Rimsky-*Korsakov's suite Mlada; Rachmaninov's Cinq Morceaux de Fantaisie, Op 3 (composer, on piano rolls); Bridge's Suite for string Orchestra; Rachmaninov's Rhapsody on theme of Paganini (Ousset, piano).†
11.45 Pfitzner and Mozart Symphonies: Austrian Radio SO (under Zagrosek) play Pfitzner's Symphony in C sharp minor; and Mozart's Smphony No 40.† 1.00 News.
1.05 Mozart and Shostakovich: Mark Lubotsky (violin), Boris Berman (piano). Mozart's Sonata in F major, K 377; Shostakovich's Sonata Op 134.†
2.00 Verdi's Operas: Rigoletto. Sung in Italian. Giulini conducts Vienna State Opera Chorus and Vienna Philharmonic. With Domingo, Cappucilli, Ileana Cotrubas, Ghiaurov. Acts 2 and 3 begin at 3.05. Interval talk at 3.00.†
4.15 French Piano Music: Michele Boegner plays Franck's Prelude, Chorale and Fugue; Rameau's Gigue en rondeau; le Rappel des oiseaux; Debussy's Etudes (incl Pour les agréments).†
5.00 Jazz Record Requests: with Peter Clayton.†
5.45 Critic's Forum: John Spurling, Christopher Cook, Michael Ratcliffe and Claire Tomalin discuss, inter alia, the film Gremlins and the Granada TV production of The Ebony Tower.
6.35 Franz Schmidt: Piano Concerto in E flat, with Hans Petermandl, soloist. The orchestra is the Austrian Radio SO under Ernst Marzendorfer †.
7.20 Dante in Rotterdam: Graham Fawcett on the Dante Translation Project at the city's poetry festival.†
8.10 L'Incoronazione di Poppea: Monteverdi's opera – the 1984 Glyndebourne production. David Nolan conducts the London Philharmonic Orchestra. The cast includes Maria Ewing (Poppea), Dennis Bailey (Nerone) and *Cynthia Clarey (Octavia).* With the Glyndebourne Chorus: Includes an interval at 9.50. A simultaneous transmission with BBC 2.
11.00 Haydn: L'Estro Aronico play the Symphony No 18, and the Symphony No 38; and the Salmon Quartet play the String Quartet in D, Op 71 No 2.†
11.57 News. Until 12.00.

Medium Wave: As VHF above except 7.05am – 11.15am: Cricket: The Second Test between England and India, in Delhi. The third day's play.

Radio 2

News on the hour until 1.00pm, then from 6.00 (except 8.00pm and 9.00). Headlines 5.30am, 7.30. 4.00am John Turner including 5.02 Cricket. 6.00 George Ferguson† including 6.02 Cricket. 7.50 Racing. 8.05 David Jacobs† including 9.02 Cricket. 10.00 Sounds of the 60s† including 10.02 Cricket. 11.00 Album Time† including 11.02 Sports Desk 12.02 Cricket. 1.00pm Radio Active. 1.30 Sport on 2. Includes Cricket (India v England) and Rugby Union (Barbarians v The Wallabies). 5.50 Racing Results. 5.55 Pools News and Football Results. 6.00 Folk on 2 (Steeleye Span and Martin Simpson). 7.00 Jazz Score at Ronnie Scott's. 7.30 A Victorian Evening recorded at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London. 8.10-8.30 Interval. 9.30 Big Band Special.† 10.02 Sports Desk. 10.05 Ken Bruce.† 12.05am Night Owls with Dave Gelly.† 1.00 Nightride.† 3.00-4.00 Pop Over Europe.†

Radio 1

On medium wave. † also VHF stereo News on the half-hour until 12.30pm, then 2.30, 3.30, 5.40, 7.30, 9.30 and 12 midnight. 5.55am Radio 1 Chip Shop. Basicode 2 + Computer Program. 6.00 Mark Page. 8.00 Peter Powell. 10.00 Dave Lee Travis. 1.00pm Lenny Henry.† 2.00 Paul Gambaccini.† 4.00 Saturday Live.† 6.30 In Concert featuring REM.† 7.30 Ian Brass (including sessions from Pure Glass and Tropical Blue). 9.30-12.00 Dixie Peach. VHF Radios 1 & 2: 4.00am With Radio 2. 1.00pm With Radio 1. 7.30-4.00am With Radio 2.

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsdesk. 7.00 World News. 7.09 Twenty Four Hours. 7.30 From The Weeklies. 7.45 Network UK. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Reflections. 8.15 A Jolly Good Show. 9.00 World News. 9.09 Review of the British Press. 9.15 The World Today. 9.30 Financial News. 9.40 Look Ahead. 9.45 Singers Of Schubert. 10.00 News Summary. 10.01 That's Trad. 10.15 Letter From America. 10.30 People and Politics. 11.00 World News. 11.09 News About Britain. 11.15 About Britain. 12.00 Radio Newsreel. 12.15 Anything Goes. 12.45 Sports Roundup. 1.00 World News. 1.09 Twenty Four Hours. 1.30 Network UK. 1.45 Country Music Profile. 2.00 News Summary. 2.01 Music Now. *2.30 Album Time.* 3.00 Radio Newsreel. 3.15 Saturday Special. 4.00 World News. 4.09 Commentary. 4.15 Saturday Special. 5.00 News Summary. 5.01 Saturday Special. 8.00 World News. 8.15 What's New. 8.30 People And Politics. 10.00 World News. 10.09 From Our Own Correspondent. 10.30 New Ideas. 10.40 Reflections. 10.45 Sports Roundup. 11.00 World News. 11.09 Commentary. 11.15 Letterbox. 11.30 Meridian. 12.00 World News. 12.09 News About Britain. 12.15 Radio Newsreel. 12.30 Baker's Half Dozen. 1.00 News Summary. 1.01 Play Of The Week: Saint Joan. 2.00 World News. 2.09 Review of the British Press. 2.15 Sacbuts And Sinfonias. 2.30 Sports Review. 3.00 World News. 3.09 News About Britain. 3.15 From Our Own Correspondent. 3.30 My Music. 4.00 Newsdesk. 4.30 Juke Box Dury. 5.45 Letter From America. (All times in GMT)

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m; 1089kHz/275m; Radio 2: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m; Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m: VHF -90-92.5; Radio 4: 200kHz 1500m: *VHF -92-95; LBC 1152kHz/261m;* VHF 97.3; Capital: 1548kHz/194m: VHF 95.8; BBC Radio London 1458kHz/206m: VHF 94.9; World Service MF 648kHz/463m.

BBC1 Wales 5.15-5.20pm Sports News Wales 1.30-1.35am Weather. Scotland 5.15-5.20pm Scoreboard 10.10-11.50 Sportscene: includes International Show Jumping (as BBC-1) featuring the Radio Rentals Puissance from the Grand Hall, Olympia. Northern Ireland 4.55-5.5pm Northern Ireland (opt-out from 'Grandstand') 5.15-5.20 Northern Ireland news. 1.30-1.35am Northern Ireland news. England 5.15-5.20 London - sport. South West (Plymouth) - spotlight sport & news. All other English regions - sport/regional news.

S4C Starts: 1.15pm What the Papers Say. 1.30 Week in Politics. 2.10 Rygbi: Barbarians v Awstralia. 3.50 La Boche. 4.10 Wine Programme. 4.40 Film: Christmas Holiday. (Deanna Durbin). 6.20 Avengers. 7.20 Superted. 7.30 Newddion. 7.45 Siôn a Siân. 8.15 Pengerdd y Dathlu. 9.15 Y Maes Chwarae. 10.05 Film: Willie and Phil (Margot Kidder). 12.10am India: the alternative.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN † Stereo. ★ Black and white. (r) Repeat

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

GRANADA As London except: 9.25am Cartoon. 9.30-10.00 Jacksons. 11.20-12.15pm Chips. 12.15am Hammer House of Mystery and *Suspense. 1.30 Closedown.*

TYNE TEES as London except: 9.25-9.30 Morning Glory. 9.55-10.00 Young Lookaround. 11.20 Jacksons. 11.50-12.15 pm Batman. 5.10-5.35 Candid Camera. 12.15 am Jazz Life. 12.45 Post's Corner, Closedown.

TVS As London except: 11.20 am Grovie Ghoulies. 11.45-12.15 pm Jabberjaws. 12.15 am Company. Closedown.

BORDER As London except: 9.30-10.00 am Jacksons. 11.20-12.15 pm Chips. 12.15 am Closedown.

YORKSHIRE As London except: 9.25 am Cartoon. 9.30-10.00 Jacksons. 11.20-12.15 pm Tarzan. 12.15 am Teachers Only. 12.45 Closedown.

CENTRAL As London except: 9.25am I Gopher Your. 9.30-10.00 Fangface. 11.20-12.15pm Six million Dollar Man. 12.15am Closedown.

SCOTTISH As London except: 9.25 am-9.30 Wattoo Wattoo. 11.20 Crazy World of Sport. 11.45-12.15 pm Happy days. 12.15 am Late Call, Closedown.

ULSTER As London except: 9.25 am-9.30 Cartoon. 11.20 Harlem Globetrotters. 11.50-12.15 pm Wild World of Animals. 4.55-5.00 Ulster Sports Results. 12.10 am Closedown.

CHANNEL As London except: 9.25 Cartoon. 9.35-12.15pm. Jacksons. 5.05 Puffin's Pla(i)e. 5.10 Smurfs. 5.35-6.05 Candid Camera. 12.15 am Closedown.

TSW As London except: 9.25am *Cartoon. 9.35-10.00 Jacksons.* 11.20-12.15pm Freeze Frame. 5.05 Newsport. 5.10-6.05 Candid Camera. 12.15am Postscript, Closedown.

GRAMPIAN As London except: 9.25am Cartoon. 9.30-10.00 Jacksons. 11.20-12.15pm Chips. 12.15am Reflections, Closedown.

HTV As London except: 9.25am Professor Kitzel. 9.30-10.00 Jacksons. 11.20-12.15pm Father Murphy. 12.15am Closedown. HTV WALES: No variation.

ANGLIA As London except: Starts 9.30 am-10.00 Fraggle Rock. 11.20-1215 pm Tarzan. 12.15 am At the End of the Day. Closedown.

Sunday

BBC 1

8.55 Heads and Tails (r). 9.10 People First. The last of five films for parents of handicapped children (r). 9.35 Making the Most of the Micro. The use of the micro in communications (r).

10.00 Asian Magazine includes profiles of three young Asians who have won the gold in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme; plus a film report on the Manchester Law Centre. 10.30 Languages for Life. Italian version with subtitles (r).

10.55 Morning Worship from Knockbreda Methodist Church, Belfast. 11.40 See Hear! A special Christmas edition of the magazine programme for the hard of hearing includes a visit to the Royal School for the Deaf in Margate to watch children preparing for their pantomime. 12.30 Farming. 12.53 Weather. 12.55 *Magic Roundabout (r).*

1.00 This Week Next Week presented by David Dimbleby begins with a news summary at 1.01. The subject for the 'week in the life of' slot is Jimmy Boyle, the convicted murderer who now runs a rehabilitation unit for ex-prisoners in Glasgow.

1.50 Face the Music. Valerie Pitts, David Attenborough and Richard Baker have their musical knowledge tested by Joseph Cooper.

2.25 Film: Up in the World* (1956) starring Norman Wisdom as a window cleaner who foils a kidnap plot through his own *incompetence. Directed by* John Paddy Carstairs.

3.55 International Show Jumping. The Cognac Courvoisier Knock-Out Stakes. The commentators at the Grand Hall, Olympia, are Raymond Brooks-Ward and Stephen Hadley.

5.10 The Dukes of Hazzard. Lulu Hogg, arriving at Hazzard airport, picks up the wrong suitcase and waltzes off with a priceless necklace.

6.00 The Prisoner of Zenda. Rupert of Hentzau makes Rudolf an offer he violently refuses (Ceefax).

6.30 News with Jan Leeming.

6.40 Songs of Praise from Manchester Cathedral, presented by Paul McDowell (Ceefax).

7.15 Sports Review of 1984, introduced by Desmond Lynam and Harry Carpenter with David Coleman and Jimmy Hill. Four hundred sports personalities are at BBC Television Centre to re-live the best of the year's sporting action and to acclaim the Sports Personality of The Year.

8.50 Tenko. The final episode and the women prepare for their departure to England. Meanwhile, a farewell picnic on the beach is ruined when Beatrice arrives with some sad news (Ceefax).

9.45 News with Jan Leeming.

10.00 Perry Como's Christmas in Paris with Angie Dickinson, Line Renaud and the Notre Dame Boys Choir (r).

10.50 Everyman: Render Unto Caesar. The story of Hitler's repression of the Christian faith in Germany which began 50 years ago this week with the enactment of the Conspiracy Law and of those brave enough to defy Hitler for the sake of their faith.

11.30 Weather.

TV-am

6.55 Good Morning Britain, presented by David Frost, begins with a Thought for Sunday from Steve Turner. News at 7.00, 8.00 and 9.00; Rub-a-Dub-Tub at 7.02 (r); cartoon at 8.02; Derek Jameson reviews the newspapers at 8.50; and David Frost interviews Edward Heath at 9.02.

ITV/LONDON

9.25 Cartoon Time. 9.35 The Smurfs. 9.50 Cartoon Time.

10.00 Morning Worship from Manvers Street Baptist Church, Bath. 11.00 Getting On. For the older viewer, presented by Gillian Reynolds and Tony Van den Bergh, examines the history of pantomime. 11.30 Care Bears. An animated story.

12.00 Weekend World The Gorbachov Visit: will it help unfreeze relations between East and West? 1.00 Police 5.

1.15 The Big Match. Brian Moore presents highlights from two of yesterday's First Division games. 2.00 The Human Factor. Sue Jay with three people whose ambition it is to *become vicars in the Church* of England.

2.30 London News headlines followed by The Smurfs. 2.45 Happy Days.

3.15 Snooker. Dickie Davies introduces coverage of the opening frames in the final of the Hofmeister World Doubles Championship.

4.30 Terrahawks. Science fiction series.

5.00 Bullseye. Darts and general knowledge game.

5.30 Sunday Sunday presented by Gloria Hunniford. The guests are Willie Rushton, Larry Grayson, Anthony Hopkins, Christopher Timothy and the London Community Choir.

6.30 News.

6.40 Appeal by Sue Cook on behalf of British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering.

6.45 Highway. Sir Harry Secombe in the Ulster American Folk Park in Omagh.

7.15 Child's Play. Derek Griffiths and Su Ingle unravel children's descriptions of everyday things.

7.45 Film: Murder by Death (1976) starring Eileen Brennan and Truman Capote. An eccentric millionaire invites five of the world's top sleuths to 'dinner and murder'. When they arrive their host informs them that whoever discovers the identity of the person who will commit the murder planned for midnight will earn a million dollars. Directed by Robert Moore (Oracle).

9.30 News.

9.45 Play: A Kind of Alaska, by Harold Pinter, starring Paul Scofield, Dorothy Tutin and Susan Engel. A women wakes up in a white painted room she does not recognise to find a man at the end of her bed who knows her but is a stranger.

10.55 South of Watford. Ben Elton re-discovers the London of the Fifties as portrayed by Colin McInnes's Absolute Beginners trilogy (r).

11.25 London news headlines followed by Snooker. Highlights of the closing stages of the Hofmeister World Doubles Championship.

12.30 *Night Thoughts.*

Paul Scofield and Dorothy Tutin in Central Television's production of Harold Pinter's play A Kind of Alaska (ITV, 9.45 pm).

BBC 2

9.00 Ceefax.

11.00 Open University: Living with Technology: Dome is What *You Make It.* 11.25 Ceefax. 12.55 Farmers Summing Up.

1.20 Ceefax.

1.55 Horizon. A Mathematical Mystery Tour. A trip through the esoteric world of pure mathematics (r).

2.45 The World Chess Championship. Jeremy James analyses Kasparov's first win over Karpov which came after 41 moves of the 32nd game.

3.10 George Orwell. The last in the series of Arena films on the life and work of George Orwell begins with the death of his wife Eileen and his retreat to Jura where, stricken with despair and tuberculosis, he *writes his last novel, Nineteen* Eightyfour (r).

4.05 Music from St George's. The fifth concert from St George's Brandon Hill, Bristol, features the Bochmann Quartet who play string quartets by Haydn and Benjamin Britten.

5.00 Geoffrey Smith's World of Flowers. The Primula (r).

5.25 Ski Sunday, introduced by David Vine from Val Gardena in the Italian Dolomites, where the Men's Downhill is in progress.

6.00 News Review. A digest of the week's news. Subtitled.

6.30 The Money Programme, includes an assessment of the prospects for next year's package holiday companies; and the boom in simulation training.

7.15 Sounds of Christmas, introduced by Richard Stilgoe from the Chichester Festival Theatre. Featuring the Band of HM Royal Marines, The *Cambridge Buskers, the Choir* of Chichester Cathedral and Christ's Hospital Junior Choir. With organists Jeremy Suter and Malcolm McKelvey.

7.55 The Natural World. The Yellowstone National Park.

8.45 Did You See ... ? Ludovic Kennedy presents a tribute to Marshall McLuhan: The Man and His Message, narrated by Tom Wolfe with contributions from Norman Mailer, Pierre Trudeau and Jonathan Miller.

9.30 Dear Ladies. Councillor Hinge is elected Mayor of Stackton Tressel and Hilda has a hand in organizing the ceremony.

10.00 Film: Slither (1973) starring James Caan, Peter Boyle and Sally Kellerman. A released prisoner and a fellow crook begin a search for embezzled money entrusted to a man who promised to 'invest' the fortune while the prisoner was serving his sentence. Directed by Howard Zieff. Ends at *11.40.*

CHANNEL 4

12.00 Tennis: The Davis Cup Final. Simon Reed and David Lloyd are the commentators at the *Scandinavum Arena,* Gothenburg, for the match between Sweden and the United States. This transmission covers the opening singles rubber. Further coverage of the tie tomorrow and Tuesday

2.25 Film: A Home of Your Own* (1964) A silent comedy short *about the building of a young* couple's dream house. Directed by Jay Lewis.

3.15 British Council: Have Culture Will Travel. The story of the British Council, coinciding with the 50th anniversary of its formation.

4.15 Book Four, presented by Hermione Lee. Geoffrey Grigson talks about his latest book, Recollections, and looks back at his 50 year career as poet, critic and anthologist.

4.45 Karen Armstrong. The former nun talks to Sister Frances Sleegers, a Dutch Roman Catholic nun who took the veil at the age of thirty.

5.10 *News summary and weather.*

5.15 The Business Programme. Iain Carson reports on the attempt by Barclays Bank to become a major force in the securities industry by bringing together a merchant bank, a stockbroker and a stockjobber. Plus an interview with the former editor of The Times, Harold Evans, about his plans for a magazine to rival Time and Newsweek.

6.00 American Football. Highlights of the game at the Texas Stadium, Dallas, between the Dallas Cowboys and the Washington Redskins.

7.15 The Dismissal. The final episode in the drama serial about the events that led to the dismissal of Australia's Gough Whitlam government by the Governor-General, in November 1975.

8.15 South Seas Voyage. Krov Menuhin, his wife Ann and son Aaron end their trip with an exploration of a number of the *islands of Papua New Guinea.*

9.15 People to People presents City General. A profile of the City General Hospital, Stoke-on-Trent, formerly a workhouse.

9.45 Snooker. The closing frames of the final of the Hofmeister World Doubles Championships, introduced by *Dickie Davies.*

11.00 approximately Film: He Walked by Night* (1949) starring Richard Basehart as a thief who murders a policeman and immediately becomes the subject of an intensive manhunt. Directed by Alfred Werker and Anthony Mann.

12.25 approximately Closedown.

Radio 4

On long wave.† Stereo on VHF

5.55 Shipping. 6.00 News Briefing: Weather. 6.10 Prelude.† 6.30 News; Morning as Broken. 6.55 Weather; Travel.
7.00 News. 7.10 Sunday Papers. 7.15 Apna Hi Ghar Samajhiye. 7.45 Bells. 7.50 Turning Over New Leaves. 7.55 Weather; Travel.
8.00 News. 8.10 Sunday Papers.
8.15 Sunday.
8.50 Henry Cooper appeals for housing for frail elderly people. 8.55 Weather; Travel.
9.00 News. 9.10 Sunday Papers.
9.15 Letter From America by Alistair Cooke.
9.30 Morning Service (from St Mary's Church, Bamber Bridge, Preston). Mass is celebrated by Father Ian Petitt.†
10.15 The Archers. Omnibus edition.
11.15 Weekend.
12.00 Four Romantic Heroes (4): Maxim de Winter marries a young second wife in Rebecca by Daphne Du Maurier. With June Barrie as the second wife and Charles Key as Maxim (r).
12.30 The Food Programme. Report from the Duoro Valley on the 1984 port vintage. 12.55 Weather.
1.00 The World This Weekend: News. 1.55 Shipping.
2.00 News; Gardeners' Question Time visits Essex.
2.30 The Afternoon Play "The Friend of the Family" by Fyodor *Dostoevsky dramatized by David* Blum. With David Suchet, Clive Merrison, Alan Dudley. The setting: Russia in 1859.†
4.00 News; Talking About Antiques. Arthur Negus and Bernard Price discuss your questions with Hugh Scully.
4.30 The Living World: Programme extracts broadcast during the past year.
5.00 News; Travel.
5.05 Down Your Way visits Hawkhurst in Kent. 5.50 Shipping Forecast.
6.00 News.
6.15 The Case Against God. Last of Gerald Priestland's eight programmes. Verdict and the Sentence.
6.45 Silent Night. Kevin Crossley-Holland traces the history of one *of the most beloved of Christmas* carols.
7.00 Travel; Father Brown Stories. Seven stories by G. K. Chesterton (3); The Edge of Apollo. With Andrew Sachs as the detective-priest.
7.30 Bookshelf. Radio 4's good books programme. Alan Coren joins the Just William fan club.
8.00 Evening Service. From St Martin-*in-the-Fields, London.*
8.45 Theatre of Blood. Aspects of the life, plays and poetry of Federico Garcia Lorca.
9.00 News; Masters's India. John Masters's saga of the Savage family spanning the years 1825-1946. Book Three: "The Lotus and the Wind". (3) Levels of Deception. 9.58 Weather.
10.00 News.
10.15 The Snow-Baby. A portrait of Alison Uttley, the creator of Little Grey Rabbit and other animal characters, born 100 years ago.
11.00 Mindful of the Love. Canon Michael Austin's illustrated talk on the Advent theme. (3) Heaven.
11.15 Inside Parliament. 12.00-12.15 News; Weather. 12.33 am Shipping Forecast.

VHF (available in England and S. Wales only). Radio 4 vhf is as above, except: 5.55-6.00 am Weather; Travel. 6.55-7.05 Open University: Preparing Your Home and Your Family. 1.55-2.00 pm Programme News. 4.00-6.00 Study on 4: 4.00 Benidorm at Christmas. 4.30 Get By in German (5). 5.00 A Vous la France! 5.30 Por aqui.

Radios 1 and 2 and World Service on facing page

Radio 3

6.55 Weather. 7.00 News.
7.05 Austrian Baroque Music: Performances, on record, of works by Biber, Emperor Leopold 1, Froberger, Schmelzer, Fux, Haydn (Missa rorate coeli desupér), Leopold Mozart (Sinfonia pastorella).†
8.00 Brahms Chamber Music: Adolf Busch and Rudolf Serkin play the Violin Sonata in G Op 78; and Serkin, Busch and Hermann Busch play the Piano Trio in C Op 87.† 9.00 News.
9.05 Your Concert Choice: Berlioz's overture Rob Roy; Beethoven's Andante con variazioni WoO 44, No 3 (Mayer, mandolin and Rohmann, piano); Gordon Jacob's Clarinet Quintet (Thea King/Aeolian); Ravel's Piano Concerto in G (Rogé is the soloist).†
10.30 Music Weekly: Includes Alan Tyson on the background to what could be a new Mozart symphony; and Richard Osborn *on Brahms and his choral music.*†
11.15 Domingo and Friends: the tenor and Virginia Alonso (soprano), Paloma Perez-Inigo (soprano), and Austrian Radio SO (under Navarro) in works by Ruperto Chapi, Reveriano Soutullo and Juan Vert, José Serrano, Tomás Bretón, Jerónimo Giménez, Federico Moreno Torroba, Manuel Penella, and others. Part *two at 12.05, with interval reading* at 12.00.†
12.45 Petworth Festival 1984: Delmé String Quartet, with John McCabe (piano). Haydn's String Quartet in D major Op 76 No 5; Robert Walker's Quintet for piano and strings.†
1.35 Poetry Now: Alan Brownjohn introduces a selection of poems.
2.30 Beethoven Sonatas: Peter Serkin *(piano) plays Sonata in E minor* Op 90; Sonata in A major Op 101: and in B flat major Op 106.†
4.00 Lutoslawski and Copland: Michael Collins (clarinet) and City of London Sinfonia. Lutoslawski's overture for strings; and his Dance Preludes, for clarinet and orchestra; and Copland's Clarinet Concerto; and *Two Pieces for strings.*†
4.45 The Vasnier Songbook: Jill Gomez (soprano) and John Constable (piano) in works by Debussy. Introduced by Richard Langham Smith.†
5.30 New Premises: Stephen Games's arts review.
6.15 BBC Philharmonic Orchestra's 50th Anniversary: Gunther Herbig conducts Bruckner's Symphony *No 8.*†
7.30 Folkeraadet (People's Council). Ian Rodger's translation of Gunnar Heiberg's political satire, starring Maureen O'Brien, *Nigel* Anthony and Michael Deeks. With music by Delius, played by BBC Concert Orchestra (r).†
9.00 Borodin Piano Trio: concert. Part one. Shostakovich's Trio No 2, Op 67.†
9.30 Diderot: *The Gentle Philosophe.* Maurice Cranston, Professor of Political Science at the LSE, talks about the French writer, critic and editor of the Encyclopedie.
9.50 Borodin Piano Trio: part two. Beethoven's Trio in E flat Op 70 No 2.†
10.30 The Reith Lectures: John Searle, Professor of Philosophy at University of California, Berkeley, gives the last of his six talks on the theme Minds, Brains and Science.
11.00 Stephen Bishop-Kovacevich: piano recital. Bach's Partita No 4 in D, BWV 828; and Beethoven's Sonata No 31 in A flat, Op 110.†
11.57 News. Until 12.00.

Medium wave: As VHF above except: 7.05 – 11.15am Cricket: The Second Test between England and India. The fourth day's play.

BBC 1 Wales 1.50-2.40pm Weekend Rugby Union. (Barbarians v The Australians) 2.403.55 Comedy Matinee: Carry On Sergeant. 11.30-11.35 News of Wales. Scotland 9.10-10.00 See Hear! 10.30-11.20 Seven Days. 11.20-12.05 Morning Worship *(from Knockbreda Methodist Church,* Belfast) 12.05-12.30 Languages for Life ('Lingue per la Vita') 2.25-3.05 Sunday Sportscene. 3.05-3.55 Bonanza. 11.30-11.35 Scottish news. Northern Ireland 10.00-10.30am Farm View. 10.00-11.00pm Transport of Delight. 11.00-11.40 Everyman: 'Render Unto Caesar'. 11.40-12.10am Farm View. 12.10-12.15 Northern Ireland news.

S4C Starts: 12.00 noon Davis Cup: Sweden v US. 2.40pm Living Body. 3.10 The World – a TV History. 3.35 Basketball. 4.35 Business Programme. 5.00 American Football. 7.15 Newyddion Amaeth. 7.25 Newyddion. 7.30 Caryl. 8.00 Rhaglen Hywel Gwynfryn. 8.40 Hywel Morgan. 9.15 Dechrau Canu, Dechrau Canmol. 9.50 Snooker. 11.00 Hill Street Blues. 12.00 Closedown.

GRAMPIAN As London except: 9.25am Professor Kitzel. 9.30 Sesame Steet. 10.30-11.00 Cause for Rejoicing. 11.30-12.00 Wells Cathedral. 1.00pm World We Live In. 1.30-2.00 Farming Outlook. 2.30 Rock of the Seventies. 3.05-3.15 Cartoon. 4.15 Scotsport. 5.30 Terrahawks. 6.00-6.30 Bullseye. 10.55-11.25 Jazz. 12.30am Reflections, Closedown.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

YORKSHIRE As London except: 9.25am-10.00 Getting on. 11.00 Kongur. 11.30-12.00 Farming Diary. 1.00pm-2.00 Champions. 2.30-3.15 *Big Match.* 10.55-11.25 Struggle. 12.30am Five Minutes, Closedown.

GRANADA As London except: 9.25am Miniature Chess Masterpieces. 9.35-10.00 Survival. 11.00 Sense of the Past. 11.25 Aap Kaa Hak. 11.30-12.00 Down to Earth. 1.00-2.00 Champions. 2.30-3.15 Big Match. 10.55-11.25 Comedy Tonight. 12.30am Closedown.

CENTRAL As London except: 9.25am Wattoo Wattoo. 9.30-10.00 Farming '84. 11.30-12.00 Fascinating Thailand. 1.00pm Star Fleet. 1.30-2.00 Here and Now. 2.30-3.15 Big Match. 5.30-6.30 Falcon Crest. 10.55-11.25 Beyond the Fig Leaf. 12.30 Closedown.

HTV As London except: 9.25am Professor Kitzel. 9.30-10.00 Vicky the Viking. 11.30-12.00 Harpsichord Builder. 1.00pm Wild World of Animals. 1.30-2.00 West Country Farming. 2.30-3.15 Big Match. 5.30-6.30 Magnum. 10.55-11.25 Struggle. 12.30am Closedown.

HTV WALES As HTV West except: 1.00pm-1.30 Stress.

CHANNEL As London except: starts 12.56pm Good News 1.00 Baby & Co. 1.30-2.00 Link. 2.30-3.15 The Big Match. 5.30 Puffin's Place. 5.35-6.30 Fall Guy. 10.55-11.25 Struggle. 12.30am Good News, Closedown.

TYNE TEES As London except: 9.25am Morning Glory. 9.30-10.30 Getting On. 11.00 Marc Chagall. 11.25 Lookaround. 11.30-12.00 Batman. 1.00pm News. 1.30-2.00 Farming Outlook. 2.30-3.15 Big Match. *5.32-6.30 Falcon Crest.* 10.55-11.25 Viewpoint. 12.30am Barbershop Chorus, Closedown.

BORDER As London except: 9.25am Border Diary. 9.30-10.00 Gardening Time. 11.30-12.00 Perspectives. 1.00pm Border Diary. 1.05 The Protectors. 1.30-2.00 Farming Outlook. 2.30-3.15 Big Match. 5.30-6.30 Fall Guy. 10.55-11.25 Strange But True. 12.30am Closedown.

ULSTER As London except: Starts 11.00 am-12.00 Sense of the Past. 1.00 pm Nature of Things. 1.30-2.00 Farming Ulster. Farming Weather. 2.30-3.15 Big Match. 5.30 Short Story Theatre. 6.00-6.30 Benson. 10.55-11.25 Nine to Five. 12.30 am Sports Results. 12.35 News. Closedown.

SCOTTISH As London except: 9.25am American Life. 9.30 Christmas Carol. 10.00 Human Factor. 10.30-11.00 Canadian Documentary. 11.30-12.00 Christmas Story. 1.00pm Diff'rent Strokes. 1.30 Farming Outlook. 2.00 Hand in Hand Together? 2.30-3.15 Glen Michael Cavalcade. 4.30 Scotsport. 5.30 Terrahawks. 6.00-6.30 Bullseye 10.55-11.25 Struggle. 12.30am Late Call, Closedown.

TVS As London except: 9.25am Action Line. 9.30-10.00 Atom Ant. 11.30-12.00 Farm Focus. 1.00pm Operation Raleigh. 1.30 Hardcastle & McCormick. 2.30-3.15 Big Match. 4.30-5.00 Adventurer. 5.30 Terrahawks. 5.55 News. 6.00-6.30 Human Factor. 10.55-11.25 Teachers Only. 12.30am Company, Closedown.

TSW As London except: Starts 9.30am-10.00 Getting On. 11.00 Invisible Man on the Jesus Beat. 11.25 Look and See. 11.30-12.00 South West Week. 1.00pm Gardens For All. 1.30-2.00 Farming News. 2.30-3.15 Big *Match.* 5.30 Gus Honeybun. 5.35-6.30 Fall Guy. 10.55-11.25 Struggle. 12.30am Postscript. Closedown.

ANGLIA As London except: Starts 9.30am-10.00 Greatest Thinkers. 11.30-12.00 Wells Cathedral. 1.00pm Just Our Luck. 1.25 Weather. 1.30-2.00 Farming Diary. 2.30-3.15 Big Match. 5.30-6.30 Fall Guy. 10.55-11.25 Shelley. 12.30am Christian People, Closedown.

Stores to cease Sunday trading

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

About 70 do-it-yourself stores operated by Woolworth's B & Q chain, and 20 Do-It-All shops owned by W H Smith, are stopping Sunday opening.

Another three chains – Marley's Payless, Texas Homecare, which part of Home Charm, and Wickes – said yesterday they were "considering the position."

However, J. Sainsbury, 13 of whose Homebase stores open on Sunday is not changing its opening policy.

The decisions by B & Q and Do-It-All to close on Sunday from this week come after the Prime Minister's warning that *the law should be obeyed until* the Government and Parliament decide on the Auld Committee's recommendations that Sunday trading restrictions *should be lifted.*

It was after Mrs Thatcher's remarks that Debenhams, the department store group, and Sir Terence Conran's Habiatat chain withdrew plans to open on Sunsays.

Closures of do-it-yourself shops will mean job losses, mainly for part-time workers and a cut in overtime pay.

Woolworth said it had decided to cease Sunday opening "in the light of this week's events." The decision also affects the Sunday opening of a handful of Woolworth and Comet strores. Only 30 of B & Q's main outlets in Englsand and Wales have not been opening on Sundays.

About half of Do-it-all stores have been opening. Texas has about a quarter of its 130 outlets open on Sundays, Payless about half of its 58 outlets, and Wickes about 20.

J Sainsbury, which now has 23 Homebase centres, said: "*Nothing has happened for us* to change our policy set up three years ago." In areas where local authorities had requested a Homebase not to trade Sainsbury *had* compiled, said *the* company.

One question so far unanswered is whether this week's developments will lead to local authorities stepping up action to stop Sunday trading by the big chains, which decide to remain open.

Letters, page 7

Front student faces college hearing





Protestors being held back by police outside the Polytechnic of North London yesterday as Mr Patrick Harrington, right, arrives at the college. (Photographs: Martin Mayer)

A private disciplinary hearing against Mr Patrick Harrington, the National Front activist at the centre of continuing disturbances at the Polytechnic of North London, went ahead yesterday amid further picketing, John O'Leary writes.

College authorities would give no details of the meeting, which lasted more than an hour. But Mr Harrington's lawyer, Miss Tessa Sempik, said: "The interview proceded in a very fair way. It was quite a reasonable discussion and I would have no criticisms of today's events."

Mr Harrington was interviewed by his head of department and Dr David MacDowall, the polytechnic director who opted for early retirement *after clashing with leaders of* the Inner London Education Authority over his handling of the case.

Judgment on charges that Mr Harrington broke the polytechnic's disciplinary code by making racist remarks in a television interview will be delivered by Wednesday.

Mr Harrington was confronted by about 150 demonstrators when he arrived for his final lectures of the term.

Poll failure worries Labour

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Labour Party's failure to profit from the Government's unpopularity in the Enfield Southgate by-election is causing continuing anxiety among senior party members and led to renewed claims from the Liberal-Social Democrat *Alliance yesterday that it had* become the effective opposition to the Tories.

The poll, in which Mr Michael Portillo, the Conservative, was returned with a majority of 4,711, followed the trend of recent by-elections with the Alliance reaping the benefit of voter dissatisfaction with the governing party and the candidate, Mr Tim Slack, gaining 35 per cent of the vote.

Labour's lost deposit was not a *surprise, for it had become* obvious from an early stage that many of Mr Peter Hamid's natural supporters were moving behind the Alliance.

Mr Neil Kinnock summed up the party's dilemma when he admitted that the result was disappointing but not really surprising. "Obviously people wanting to protest against Thatcherism thought they could do so by voting for the nearest thing to the Tories or by staying at home."

Despite the sharp fall in the Tory majority, from *15,799* at the *1983* election, there was relief among ministers and senior backbenchers that it had not been even smaller after a month of upsets over the Government's handling of overseas aid, student grants, local government and pensions.

Mr John Gummer, the party chairman, described it as a good result

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, said: "The long term significance is that we have elbowed Labour out of the way and are challenging the Tories."

Dr David Owen, the SDP leader, published figures showing that in the seven by-elections since the general election the Alliance had polled nearly 37 per cent, the Tories 35.5 per cent and Labour 27.5 per cent.

Enfield Southgate

Portillo, M. (Con)	16,684
Slack, T. (L/All)	11,973
Hamid, W. F. (Lab)	4,000
Weiss, G. (Captain Rainbow Universal)	48
Kershaw, J. W. (Nationalist)	80
Polydorou, A. (Turkish Troops Out of Cyprus)	687
Burgess, I. I. (Abolish Greater London Restore Middlesex Shire)	50
Shenton, R. E. (English Nationalist)	78
Anscomb, H. M. (Death Off Roads, Freight On Rail)	45
Majority	4,711

	1984 %	1983 %	Change %
Con	49.6	58.1	–8.5
L/All	35.6	23.4	+12.2
Lab	11.9	17.9	–6
Poll	51	69.6	
Electorate	66,644	65,438	
Total votes	33,645	45,553	

General election, June 1983: Berry, Sir Anthony (Con) 26,451; Morgan, D. L. (Lib) 10,652; Honeyball, Miss M. (Lab) 8,132; Braithwaite, M. (Brit Nat Party) 318: Con. Maj: 15,799.

Gorbachov breaks ice with visit to London

Continued from page 1

The Gromyko-Shultz talks held out the hope of arms control agreements, and Mr Gorbachov's visit was "an important opportunity to increase mutual understanding."

Sir Iain said he did not accept the terms "freeze" and "thaw". He had found on arrival two years ago that official exchanges were "much reduced" compared to the 1970's, but dialogue with Moscow had never ceased.

"Returning to Moscow, I felt that the process of reciprocal estrangement had gone to far. It was right to respond forcefully to Soviet actions, but one needed effective forums in which to convey the message." Britain also had to explore Soviet attitudes at a time of leadership changes, and "to demonstrate to the Soviet people that we are not the inimical sterotypes portrayed in *Krokodil* (a Soviet magazine) cartoons".

Sir Ianin said he fully agreed with Mr Shultz's remark in Los Angeles in October that the West had to stick to a long term strategy, and "sudden shifts of policy" stemming from understandable emotional reactions to Soviet behaviour were not the best way to pursue Western interests. "There has been an increasing realization – perhaps accepted earlier in London and other European capitals than in Washington – That when the Soviet Union acts in a way we find objectionable it may not always make sense to break off negotiations or suspend agreements."

The Ambassador, who has reinvigorated cultural and commercial ties in the past two years, denies that the Soviet market was being neglected. This year there had been visits by the Minister of Trade, the President of the Confederation of British Industry, the Governor of the Bank of England, several senior businessmen and local chambers of commerce, as well as Lord Jellicoe, president of the Overseas Trade Board.

"No, the British have been pushing very hard. Where we do lag behind is in volume of trade." Britain had been first among Western exporters to Russia in 1950, but had slipped to fourth in 1968 and ninth last year (1983).

Letter from Bhopal

A frantic clamour spoiling the view

From their comfortable place of confinement the two prisoners had a marvellous view of the old city by the lake, the faded grandeur of Mogul architecture, the minarets of the splendid mosque. They could sense, even if they could not hear, Bhopal's distant clamour, a clamour that has become more urgent and frantic.

The two prisoners were the managing director and the chairman of the Union Carbide plant. Until they were released on bail last night they were held, on charges of negligence, in their company's own magnificent hilltop villa.

But theirs was a melancholy contemplation of the dramatic view. Indeed, one of them said, just before his arrest: "I cannot see anything beautiful now".

On the roads out of the city, snaking across the landscape of dull pink rock, the people move in a relentless flow. It is impossible to say how many have left.

The newspapers talk of a lakh – a hundred thousand – or even two lakhs; but no one can be sure, just as we cannot be sure about the number who died in the gas leak 12 days ago.

The official figure is 1,300, but newspapers, which have done their own tallying, talk of 2,000. And there are some serious people who say the *total is much more than that.*

The Great Bhopal exodus has become a remarkable migration, a unique shifting of population. The wish to leave has become a contagion.

It means nothing that the Chief Minister of the state and others in authority have said there is no reason to panic, no need to evacuate. The undercurrent of fear is strong. People do not trust these high-ranking public servants any more. They do not trust experts. They do not trust technology.

Tomorrow the experts, the chemical engineers and others *will start the process of* making safe the remaining 15 tonnes of MIC gas that devastated the city.

When the Chief Minister went on the radio and talked of the coming few days as "a moment of truth", and suggested that everyone should "leave it to God to tend to his flock", the people were not much comforted.

After all, they reckoned, neither God, nor government, had saved them during the night of December 3. So they have been packing their bags and bundles and piling on to buses, trains, cars and carts.

They were not much impressed, either, buy the Chief Minister's pledge that during the operation to make it safe he would be at the plant, like some coalmine canary, to demonstrate his confidence. An act of faith, he says, not of bravado.

The exodus is another chapter in a terrible tale that has been, in its inevitability, a true tragedy.

It was a mistake to build such a plant with its deadly and not well-understood chemicals so close to a teeming city. It was wrong to allow people, drawn from the countryside by Bhopal's economic growth, to set up their colonies of rough houses so close to the factory gates.

Most people did not know there was any risk. Those who did know expected government and the masters of technology to protect them.

Those who knew and understood what was going on, who saw that equipment and maintenance procedures were inadequate, sounded warnings. But these were ignored. It is not only in India that people with environmental concerns inspire only the impatience of robust industrialists and public servants.

In the end, it seems, two low-grade workers were left with the responsibility of stopping the gas from escaping. They panicked and ran. People and the fail-safe systems failed.

The dead are burnt and buried, the community devastated, and more than a hundred thousand people have been left in varying degrees of pain, their lungs contaminated, and no one knows what the gas will do to them over the years. Bhopal will become the centre of medical research and monitoring on a large scale.

Trevor Fishlock

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

New exhibition

Drawings by Pierre Bonnard; City Museum and Art Gallery, Queens Rd, Bristol; Mon to Sat 10 to 5 (ends Jan 27).

Last chance to see

Buckinghamshire Crafts; Milton Keynes Exhibition Gallery, 555 Silbury Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes; 10 to 5.

Thomas Hamilton, Architect; Talbot Rice Art Centre, Old College, South Bridge, *Edinburgh*; 10 to 5.

Paintings, painted ceramics and knitwear collection by Sandra Children; City Museum, Broad St, Hereford; 10 to 4.

Music

Concert by the Suffolk Symphony Orchestra and the Collegium Loreatum Choir, West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge, 7.30.

Concert by the Connaught Players and Crofton Singers; Loughton Union Church, Essex, 8.

Concert by Rochester Choral Society; Rochester Cathedral, 7.30.

Handel's *Messiah:* concert by Lincoln Musical; Lincoln Minister, 7.30.

Handel's *Messiah* by the Woburn Singers and the City of London Sinfonia: High Wycombe Parish *Church*, 7.30.

Handel's *Messiah* by Ilkley Choral Society; King's Hall, Ilkley, 7.30.

Handel's *Messiah* by the Waynflete Singers, Winchester Cathedral Choir, The Parley of Instruments and Baroque Orchestra; Winchester Cathedral, 7.

Handel's *Messiah;* King George's Hall, Blackburn, 7.

Christmas music

Christmas music by the Chantry Singers, St Stephen's Church, Lansdown, Bath, 7.30.

Hatfield Philharmonic Chorus family *carol concert; The Forum,* Hatfield, 7.30.

Chrismas carol concert with the Hertford Symphony Orchestra and the boys from the church choir; All Saints Church, Hertford, 7.30.

Carol concert by the Witham Choral Society, St Nicholas Church, Witham, 7.30.

Carols in candlelight; Hall Cross Comprehensive School, Thorne Rd, Doncaster, 7.30.

Carols with St Michael's Singers and Coventry Youth Orchestra; Coventry Cathedral, 7.30.

Carol service with the City of Belfast Youth Orchestra; St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, 3.

Christmas music by the Birmingham Singers, Birmingham Cathedral, 7.30.

Tomorrow

Royal engagements

Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester, deputy Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Anglian Regiment attends a Christmas band concert in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund, Werrington Sports Complex, Peterbrough, 6.15.

Last chance to see

Closing the Gap; photographs of eight young Midlands artists; Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, Jordan Well, Coventry; 2 to 5.

Samuel Palmer and the Ancients; Adeane Gallery, Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge; 2.15 to 5.

Marianne Straub: 50 years as weaver; Holborne of Menstrie Museum, Pulteney St, Bath; 2.30 to 6.

Music

Concert by Dundee Choral Union with the Scottish Philharmonia, Caird Hall, Dundee, 7.30.

Concert by the Scottish National Orchestra, His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen, 7.30.

Concert by Scottish Brass, Cowdray Hall, Aberdeen, 7.30.

Christmas music

Festival of Christmas carols, Theatre Royal, Bath, 3 and 8.

Annual carol concert featuring the Cambridge Co-op Band; Guildhall, Cambridge, 6.

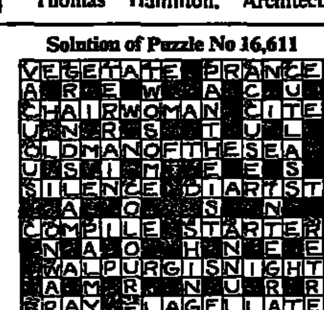
Carols with the City of Birmingham Choir, Town Hall, Birmingham, 2.30.

Carol concert, eden Court Theatre, Inverness, 2.30.

Solution of Puzzle No 16,606

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RUBICON CHANCEL
O A A O H S H I
UNCUT TRANSPIRE
N K C E P E C G
DELIAN OFFSTAGE
T O L A A G
REGAL DELACROIX
I E A L O A
PROGRAMME PLAIN
N S N Y B T
MATERIAL BREECH
A R E P B I T I
PRINCIPAL GOTUP
L A U L O H E P
ENLARGE COTERIE
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Solution of Puzzle No 16,611



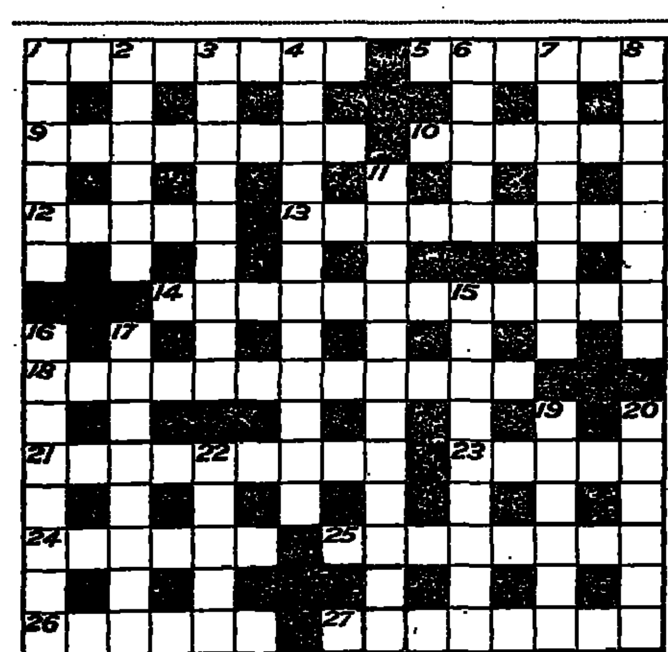
The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,612

A prize of The Times Atlas of the World *(comprehensive edition) will be given for the first three correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, 12 Coley Street, London WC99 9YT. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.*

The winners of last Saturday's competition are:
J. B. Fincher, 26 Fletcher Street, Heanor, Derbyshire; Roger D. Swaine, 26a Ellerdale Road, Hampstead, London, NW3; Mrs A. J. Bentley, 7 Chevin View, Belper, Derbyshire.

Name...

Address...



ACROSS

1 Immediately cancel from account we hear (5,3).
5 Destroyer's ruthless captain – exactly (6).
9 Cloth for Sicilian mountain girl's back (8).
10 It allows only some to succeed in late arrangement (6).
12 Burns, for example, town in Berkshire (5).
13 Magazine opposing nothing in Times, perhaps (9).
14 Declaration Al makes as expert at game (12).
18 Disaffection of people in a Regent St disorder (12).
21 Bird alighting on French horse (9).
23 Relief when this investment's raised (5).
24 Interrogates cooks (6).
25 Daily starting false rumours – what fools! (8).
26 French artist almost going in (6).
27 It's not in the body of the book, however (8).

DOWN

1 Provocative article in Pravda (3,3).
2 Short-sighted cricket shot? (6).
3 Pointlessly start on waiter, perhaps, in restaurant (9).
4 Note the right amount for trusted leader (6-6).
6 Slow movement produced no advance (5).
7 Inclination to fade away, in general (8).
8 A little bird that inspired Rossini opera (4-4).
11 Hampshire's no different, as is shown by safe seat (12).
15 No charge for accommodation in Yeats's lake-isle (9).
16 Composer of eg Irish piano medley (8).
17 Argentine type is first-class (8).
19 Seat giving support (6).
20 Point to Elizabeth's favourite part of old England (6).
22 He omits nothing for the orchestra (5).

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 13

Anniversaries

TODAY

Births: **George Romney,** portrait painter, Dalton-in-Furness, Lancashire, 1734; **Niels Finsen,** physician, Nobel laureate 1903, Thorshavn, Faero Islands, 1860.

Deaths: **Jan Vermeer,** painter, Delft, 1675; **Izaak Walton,** author of *The Compleat Angler,* Winchester, 1683; **Sir George Cayley,** pioneer of aerodynamics, Brompton Hall, Yorkshire, 1857; **Sitting Bull,** chief of the Sioux nation, Grand River, South Dakota, 1890; **Wolfgang Pauli,** physicist, Nobel laureate 1945, Zurich, 1958; **Walt Disney,** Los Angeles, 1966.

TOMORROW:

Births: **Jane Austen,** Steventon, Hampshire, 1775; **Zoltan Kodály,** composer, Kecskemét, Hungary, 1882; **Sir Noel Coward,** Teddington, Middlesex, 1899.

Deaths: **Richard Bright,** physician, London, 1858; **Wilhelm Grimm,** collector of folk tales, Berlin, 1859; **Camille Saint-Saëns,** Algiers, 1921; **Somerset Maugham,** Nice, 1965; **Harold Holt,** Prime minister of Australia 1966-67, *Portsea, Victoria, 1967.*

Roads

London and South-east: A3057: Winchester St, Andover; long delays; use ring road to avoid congestion. A12: Chelmsford at Westway (Britvic) roundabout: improvements to approaches and exits. A308: King St, Maidenhead closed at junction Shoppenhangers Lane, from 7pm today until 9am Monday; avoid town centre. A100: Tower Bridge closed for repairs from 8am today until 6pm Sunday; alternatives are London Bridge or Southwark Bridge. A30: avoid driving between Hartley Wintney and Camberley on Sunday; traffic jams with up to 5 mile tailbacks expected due to Blackbush Airport Sunday Market; alternate route M3.

Midlands: A57: Only one lane with temporary lights near Lincoln racecourse Lincolnshire. A12: Temporary signals at Saxmundham, Suffolk. A1: Contraflow N of Colsterworth at Stoke Rochford.

Wales and West: A40: Lane restrictions at Broadoak on the Whitland to Carmarthen Rd. *A40: Temporary lights on the Cheltenham to* Oxford Rd at Tunnel Hill and Whittington. A30: Roadworks between Exeter and Launceston Rd at Sticklepath and at Lifton.

The North: A1: Roadworks at Beal, S of Berwick upon Tweed. Tyne Tunnel closed all weekend until 7am Monday. A580: Roadworks at East Lancashire Rd on Merseyside and Salford boundaries: Manchester bound carriageway resticted to one lane 8am to 3.30pm today and Sunday.

Scotland: A726: Paisley: Lane closures on Caledonia St between Glen St and Murray St. City of Edinburgh: A901: Roadworks on the Lower Granton Rd between Granton Sq and Trinity Bridge.

Information supplied by the AA

The pound

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	1.46	1.39
Austria Sch	26.85	25.55
Belgium Fr	77.30	73.30
Canada $	1.63	1.58
Denmark Kr	13.73	13.03
Finland Mkk	7.96	7.58
France Fr	11.76	11.16
Germany DM	3.82	3.64
Greece Dr	178.00	162.00
Hongkong $	9.70	9.19
Ireland Pt	1.24	1.18
Italy Lira	2346.00	2245.00
Japan Yen	308.00	293.00
Netherlands Gld	4.305	4.105
Norway Kr	11.03	10.53
Portugal Esc	208.00	198.00
South Africa Rd	2.33	2.17
Spain Pta	209.00	199.00
Sweden Kr	10.90	10.40
Switzerland Fr	3.15	3.00
USA $	1.235	1.185
Yugoslavia Dnr	315.00	295.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 358.8.

London: The *FT* Index closed up 7.8 at 935.4.

In the garden

Many pot plants sold as Christmas presents are dead by the end of January. Some die from neglect, by being kept in a draught, in too cold a room or on a windowsill between the curtains and the glass or a very cold spot on a frosty night, and some by overwatering. Always allow pot plants that are kept in the house or in a greenhouse to almost dry out between waterings. Most pot plants sold today are grown in peat based composts. If these dry out the pots *should be stood in a sink or basin of* tepid water until the compost has drawn up enough water to be thoroughly wet again.

Some tulip bulbs are already showing through the ground because of the mild autumn weather. They should not come to any harm but to be on the safe side you can cover them with a couple of inches of soil.

Keep the floor of a greenhouse dry now, also the benches. Too moist an atmosphere encourages diseases. Pests are with us in a greenhouse pretty well all the time – especially slugs from pots you have *brought indoors.*

RH

Portfolio

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 24).

Stock No	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Weekly Total
1	–1	+5	+3	+1	+2		
2	+2	+3	+3	+4	+1		
3	–1	+5	+2	+3	+1		
4	+1	+2	+5	+3	+2		
5	+2	+5	+2	+2	–1		
6	–1	+3	+2	+4	+2		
7	+2	+3	+4	+4	+1		
8	+1	+1	+5	+1	–1		
9	–1	+4	+5	+2	+1		
10	–1	+3	+2	+3	+1		
11	+2	+4	+2	+4	+5		
12	+2	+3	+3	+4	+5		
13	+2	+3	+2	+5	+3		
14	+1	+5	+2	+5	+3		
15	+4	+2	+2	+5	+3		
16	+3	+2	+3	+2	+5		
17	+2	+2	+3	+1	+2		
18	+2	+5	+2	+2	+2		
19	+3	+5	+2	+1	+2		
20	+3	+2	+2	+3	+4		
21	+1	+2	+1	+2	+3		
22	–1	+5	+2	+1	+2		
23	–1	+4	+3	+3	+2		
24	+1	+7	+2	+1	+2		
25	–2	+2	+5	+3	+2		
26	–1	+5	+4	+1	+2		
27	–2	+2	+2	+1	+8		
28	–2	+2	+1	+1	+2		
29	–1	+1	+4	+2	+4		
30	–2	+3	+2	+1	+4		
31	+2	+3	+2	+4	+1		
32	+2	+2	+2	+5	+2		
33	+3	+1	+5	+1	+1		
34	+2	+7	+2	+1	+2		
35	+2	+5	+3	+3	+1		
36	+4	+1	+2	+1	+2		
37	+3	–1	+3	+2	+2		
38	+3	+3	+5	+1	+3		
39	+4	–2	+2	+4	–1		
40	+2	+1	+2	+1	+3		

Weather forecast

A depression to the SW of Scotland will drift slowly NW, and maintain an unstable S airstream over most areas.

6am to midnight

London, East Anglia, SW England: Rather cloudy with rain in places at first; sunny intervals developing; wind S, moderate; max temp 9C (48F).

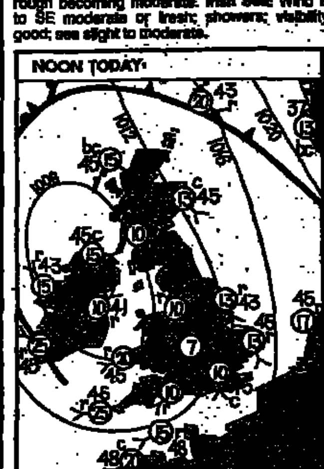
Central S, SW England, Channel Islands, S, N Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyl, Northern Ireland: Rather cloudy with showers, some heavy, but also some sunny intervals; wind mainly S, moderate, occasionally fresh; max temp 9C (48F).

E, W Midlands, E, NW, Central, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland: Mainly dry with sunny periods, perhaps an isolated shower; wind S, moderate; max temp 8C (46F).

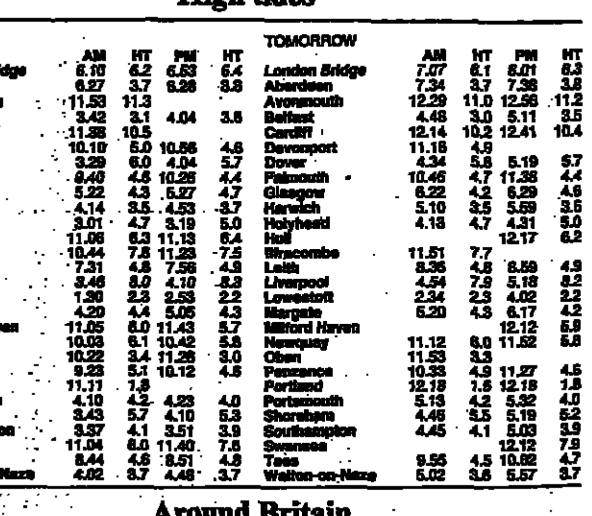
Orkney, Shetland: Mainly cloudy, a little rain at times; wind SE, fresh; max temp 8C (46F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Monday: Showers in the West; mainly dry with sunny intervals elsewhere, but with overnight fog and frost.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Strait of Dover and English Channel: wind S to SW fresh or strong; showers; visibility good; sea moderate or rough. St George's Channel: Wind W strong decreasing fresh; showers; visibility good; sea rough becoming moderate. Irish Sea: Wind E to SE moderate or fresh; showers; visibility good; sea slight to moderate.



b-blue sky; bc-blue sky and cloud; c-cloudy; o-overcast; f-fog; d-drizzle; h-hail; m-mist; r-rain; s-snow; th-thunderstorm; p-showers. Arrows show wind direction, wind speed (mph) circled. temperatures fahrenheit.



Lighting-up time

TODAY
London 4.22 pm to 7.31 am
Bristol 4.32 pm to 7.40 am
Edinburgh 4.06 pm to 8.08 am
Manchester 4.19 pm to 7.50 am
Penzance 4.50 pm to 7.46 am

TOMORROW
London 4.22 pm to 7.32 am
Bristol 4.32 pm to 7.41 am
Edinburgh 4.06 pm to 8.10 am
Manchester 4.20 pm to 7.51 am
Penzance 4.50 pm to 7.46 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

		C	F			C	F
Belfast	r	5	41	Guernsey	r	10	50
Birmingham	c	7	45	Inverness	f	6	43
Blackpool	c	7	45	Jersey	c	7	45
Bristol	r	6	43	London	c	9	48
Cardiff	r	7	45	Manchester	c	7	45
Edinburgh				Newcastle	c	7	45
Glasgow	c	8	46	Ronaldsway	r	8	46

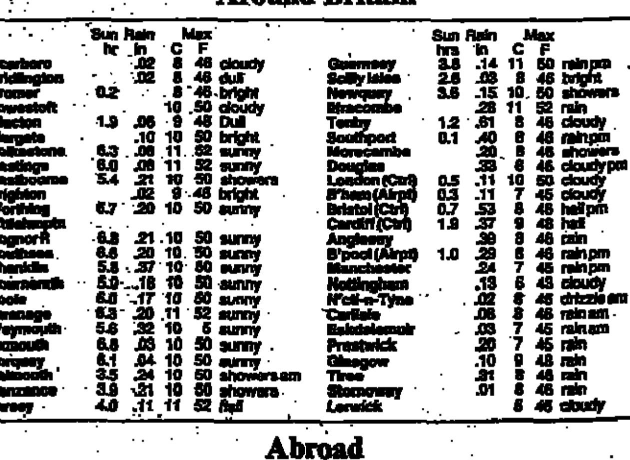
London

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 10C (50F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 7C (45F). Humidity: 6 pm, 89 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.11in. Sun: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.5hrs. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1013.7 millibars rising. 1,000 millibars = 29.53in.

Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Guernsey C11 (52F); lowest day max: Belfast C5 (41F); highest rainfall: Brawdy 1.08in.; highest sunshine: Bognor Regis & Exmouth 6.8hrs.

High tides



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	6.10	6.2	6.53	6.4
Aberdeen	6.27	3.7	6.26	3.8
Avonmouth	11.53	11.3		
Belfast	3.42	3.1	4.04	3.5
Cardiff	11.38	10.5		
Devonport	10.10	5.0	10.56	4.6
Dover	3.29	6.0	4.04	5.7
Falmouth	9.40	4.6	10.26	4.4
Glasgow	5.22	4.3	5.27	4.7
Harwich	4.14	3.5	4.53	3.7
Holyhead	3.01	4.7	3.19	5.0
Hull	11.06	6.3	11.13	6.4
Ilfracombe	10.44	7.8	11.23	7.5
Leith	7.31	4.5	7.56	4.3
Liverpool	3.46	8.0	4.10	8.3
Lowestoft	1.30	2.3	2.53	2.2
Margate	4.20	4.4	5.05	4.3
Milford Haven	11.05	6.0	11.43	5.7
Newquay	10.03	6.1	10.42	5.8
Oban	10.22	3.4	11.26	3.0
Penzance	9.23	5.1	10.12	4.8
Portland	11.11	1.8		
Portsmouth	4.10	4.2	4.23	4.0
Shoreham	3.43	5.7	4.10	5.3
Southampton	3.37	4.1	3.51	3.9
Swansea	11.04	8.0	11.40	7.6
Tees	8.44	4.6	8.51	4.8
Walton-on-Naze	4.02	3.7	4.48	3.7

TOMORROW	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	7.07	6.1	8.01	6.3
Aberdeen	7.34	3.7	7.36	3.8
Avonmouth	12.29	11.0	12.56	11.2
Belfast	4.48	3.0	5.11	3.5
Cardiff	12.14	10.2	12.41	10.4
Devonport	11.18	4.9		
Dover	4.34	5.8	5.19	5.7
Falmouth	10.46	4.7	11.38	4.4
Glasgow	6.22	4.2	6.29	4.6
Harwich	5.10	3.5	5.59	3.6
Holyhead	4.13	4.7	4.31	5.0
Hull			12.17	6.2
Ilfracombe	11.51	7.7		
Leith	8.36	4.8	8.59	4.9
Liverpool	4.54	7.9	5.18	8.2
Lowestoft	2.34	2.3	4.02	2.2
Margate	5.20	4.3	6.17	4.2
Milford Haven			12.12	5.9
Newquay	11.12	6.0	11.52	5.8
Oban	11.53	3.3		
Penzance	10.33	4.9	11.27	4.6
Portland	12.18	1.8	12.18	1.8
Portsmouth	5.13	4.2	5.32	4.0
Shoreham	4.46	5.5	5.19	5.2
Southampton	4.45	4.1	5.03	3.9
Swansea			12.12	7.9
Tees	9.55	4.5	10.02	4.7
Walton-on-Naze	5.02	3.6	5.57	3.7

Around Britain



	Sun hr	Rain in	Max C	F	
Scarboro		.02	8	46	cloudy
Bridlington		.02	8	46	dull
Cromer	0.2		8	46	bright
Lowestoft			10	50	cloudy
Clacton	1.9	.06	9	48	Dull
Margate		.10	10	50	bright
Folkestone	6.3	.08	11	52	sunny
Hastings	6.0	.08	11	52	sunny
Eastbourne	5.4	.21	10	50	showers
Brighton		.02	9	48	bright
Worthing	6.7	.20	10	50	sunny
Littlehampton					
Bognor R	6.8	.21	10	50	sunny
Southsea	6.6	.20	10	50	sunny
Sandown	5.8	.37	10	50	sunny
Bournemouth	5.0	.18	10	50	sunny
Poole	6.0	.17	10	50	sunny
Swanage	6.3	.20	11	52	sunny
Weymouth	5.6	.32	10	5	sunny
Exmouth	6.8	.03	10	50	sunny
Torquay	6.1	.04	10	50	sunny
Falmouth	3.5	.24	10	50	showers am
Penzance	3.9	.21	10	50	showers
Jersey	4.0	.11	11	52	hail

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Guernsey	3.8	.14	11	50	rain pm
Scilly Isles	2.8	.03	8	46	bright
Newquay	3.6	.15	10	50	showers
Ilfracombe		.28	11	52	rain
Tenby	1.2	.61	8	46	cloudy
Southport	0.1	.40	8	46	rain pm
Morecambe		.20	8	46	showers
Douglas		.33	6	46	cloudy pm
London (Ctr)	0.5	.11	10	50	cloudy
B'ham (Airpt)	0.3	.11	7	45	cloudy
Bristol (Ctr)	0.7	.53	8	46	hail pm
Cardiff (Ctr)	1.9	.37	8	48	hail
Anglesey		.39	8	46	rain
B'pool (Airpt)	1.0	.29	8	46	rain pm
Manchester		.24	7	45	rain pm
Nottingham		.13	6	43	cloudy
N'cle-o-Tyne		.02	8	46	drizzle am
Carlisle		.08	8	45	rain am
Eskdalemuir		.03	7	45	rain am
Prestwick		.20	7	45	rain
Glasgow		.10	9	48	rain
Tiree		.21	8	46	rain
Stornoway		.01	8	46	rain
Lerwick			8	46	cloudy

Abroad

MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; fg, fog; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.

		C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F
Ajaccio	f	16	61	Cologne	c	6	43	Majorca	s	16	61	Rome	f	17	63
Akrotiri	f	14	57	Copenhgn	c	1	34	Malaga	f	17	63	Salzburg	r	2	36
Alexandria	c	16	61	Corfu	f	14	57	Malta	f	17	63	Sao Paulo*	d	22	72
Algiers	s	19	66	Dublin	r	4	39	Melbourne	r	17	63	S Francisco*	s	11	52
Amsterdam	c	8	46	Dubrovnik	c	9	48	Mexico C				Santiago*	s	26	79
Athens	s	14	57	Faro	f	14	57	Miami*	c	25	77	Seoul*	c	6	43
Bahrain	c	21	70	Florence	c	15	59	Milan	f	7	45	Singapore	f	30	86
Barbados*	f	28	82	Frankfurt	d	3	37	Montreal*	f	5	41	Stockholm	f	0	32
Barcelona	s	13	55	Funchal	s	17	63	Moscow	sn	–7	19	Strasbourg	c	7	45
Beirut	f	15	59	Geneva	c	8	46	Munich	r	3	37	Sydney	s	28	82
Belgrade	c	1	34	Gibraltar	f	17	63	Nairobi	f	23	73	Tangier	c	17	63
Berlin	s	–1	30	Helsinki	c	–7	19	Naples	c	12	54	Tel Aviv	f	16	61
Bermuda*	s	21	70	Hongkong	s	23	73	New Delhi	s	18	64	Tenerife	s	21	70
Biarritz	s	13	55	Innsbruck	sl	1	34	New York*	s	14	57	Tokyo	c	15	59
Bologna	f	9	48	Istanbul	f	8	46	Nice	s	15	59	Toronto*	c	1	34
Bordeaux	f	11	52	Jeddah	c	26	79	Oslo	sn	0	32	Tunis	s	17	63
Brussels	f	9	48	Jo'burg*	f	26	79	Paris	s	10	50	Valencia	c	12	54
Budapest	f	0	32	Karachi*	s	24	75	Peking	s	0	32	Vancouver*	c	4	39
Buen Aires*	s	24	75	Las Palmas	f	20	68	Perth	c	21	70	Venice	f	6	43
Cairo*	f	15	59	Lisbon	f	9	48	Prague	c	–3	27	Vienna	c	–1	30
Cape Tn.	s	24	75	Locarno*	c	7	45	Reykjavik	c	0	32	Warsaw	c	–3	27
C'blanca	c	16	61	L Angeles*	s	12	54	Rhodes	s	12	54	Washington			
Chicago*	c	2	36	Luxembourg	f	5	41	Riyadh	f	18	64	Wellington*	s	16	61
Ch'church*	f	24	75	Madrid	s	7	45	Rio de Jan*	f	27	81	Zurich	f	7	45

*denotes Thursday's figures are latest available

TODAY
Sun rises: 8.00 am Sun sets: 3.52 pm
Moon sets: 12.39 pm Moon rises: 12.34 pm
Last quarter: 3.25 pm

TOMORROW
Sun rises: 8.01 am Sun sets: 3.52 pm
Moon rises: 12.03 am Moon sets: 12.54 pm
Next Moon: December 22

